A LAD AT THE OPERA **How sumptuous** Verdi won over a Burnley fan



THE HEIGHTS OF MADNESS? The people who risk all to conquer **Mount Everest** 

JOHN LYTTLE GOES STRAIGHT FOR A DAY A gay challenge to Chris Evans FEATURES, PAGE 19



Ulster

peace

close,

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

deal is so

says Blair

AGREEMENT on a peace settlement for Northern Ireland was described by Tony Blair yesterday as "agonisingly close" but the difficulties were underlined last night when the Ulster

Unionist leader, David Trimble, said Sinn Fein could continue to be barred from the talks. Mr Trimble said the RUC believed "IRA elements" were involved in the killing of Kevin

Conway, a Catholic man, Se-

curity minister Adam Ingram

said in a Commons written an-

swer that "it is the RUC's as-

sessment that local IRA

elements were involved in the

murder although no charges

have yet been brought". Mr

Conway's killing was not one of

the two IRA murders for which

Sinn Fein has already been

temporarily expelled from the

The Ulster Unionists also threatened not to sign a peace

settlement on Northern Ireland unless the IRA began de-

commissioning some of its

weapons after a day of Down-

ing Street diplomacy by Mr Blair to keep the talks process

on track. Gerry Adams, the Sim

Fein leader, saw Mr Blair at

Downing Street yesterday

morning, and then flew to the

United States with a clear sig-

nal that his party will return to

the round-table talks around 23

March after "positive and con-

structive" talks with the Prime

Minister. Mr Trimble saw Mr

bornly optimistic" about reach-

ing a peace settlement by

Easter, ready for a referen-

dum on both sides of the bor-

der in May. He and Bertie

Ahera, the Irish Prime Minis-

ter, discussed Ulster at a Eu-

ropean Union meeting in

Mr Blair said he was "stub-

Blair yesterday evening.

peace process.

# Newspaper of the Year for photographs

# 150 sex offenders to go free without controls

By Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

UP TO 150 sex offenders, including at least six notorious released from jail without supervision within the next two years, it was revealed yesterday.

The police, probation and social services, are becoming increasingly alarmed at their apparent powerlessness to deal with dozens of convicted sex criminals who have escaped new laws which clamp down on rapists and paedophiles.

Alun Michael, the Home Office minister, will be urged in a meeting next Thursday to introduce a new register of suspected serious sex criminals, provide greater secure accommodation for newly-released offenders, and to close the loophole that allows dangerous former convicts to go unsupervised into society.

The case of child killer Robert Oliver was used yester- and released early. day to illustrate the problem. Police revealed that he arrived in Brighton, Sussex, last October and met up with a convicted paedophile before visiting the children's section of Hove library. the pier, and the beach to watch children. The police were unable assessment of him as a "very high risk" who "clearly still had an interest in young boys."

Sussex Police also disclosed that it has spent about £100,000 accommodating Oliver in a cell for four months for his protection and is currently paying £320 a day to keep him in a se- ers. cure private clinic in Milton

of 14-year-old Jason Swift.

Penny Buller, chief prohation officer for East Sussex, told a conference in London yesterday that the Home Office paedophiles considered a seri- had disclosed that there are 150 ous risk to children, are to be more sex offenders, who like Oliver, are due to be released from prison without supervision over the next two years. Among the offenders are six dangerous paedophiles, described as posiog a serious risk to the public. including Sidney Cooke, a member of the gang which raped and killed Jason Swift. He is due to leave prison next month after serving 11 years of a 19-year term.

The legal loophole has been created by the Criminal Justice Act 1991 which only obliges people convicted of a sex offence after 1992 to have supervision, usually by the probation service, when they are released. Ironically, offenders sentenced before 1992 would get supervision only if they were considered low risk

All people who commit a serious sexual crime are placed on the new sex offenders register which is supposed to allow the police to keep track of them, but critics argue this does little to prevent reoffending.

Ms Buller told the conferto intervene, despite experts ence on sexual offending that she spent four months trying to find somewhere to put Oliver after be asked for police protection: The police even tried a religious retreat in the Outer Hebrides. She warned the enisode would be repeated with other dangerous sex offend-

dophile is a rarity but when the Oliver was released from half dozen come out of jail withprison last September after out supervision this is going to serving eight years of a 15-year cause an immense amount of sentence for the manslaughter concern," she said.

Today's news

Derbyshire inquiry to be re-opened
The inquiry into the loss of the British hulk carrier Derbyshire.

which went down in a typhoon off Japan in 1980, is to be

Prostate cancer in men is set to become the commonest form

The number of under-age pregnancies has his a 10-year peak.

Prostate 'to be commonest cancer'

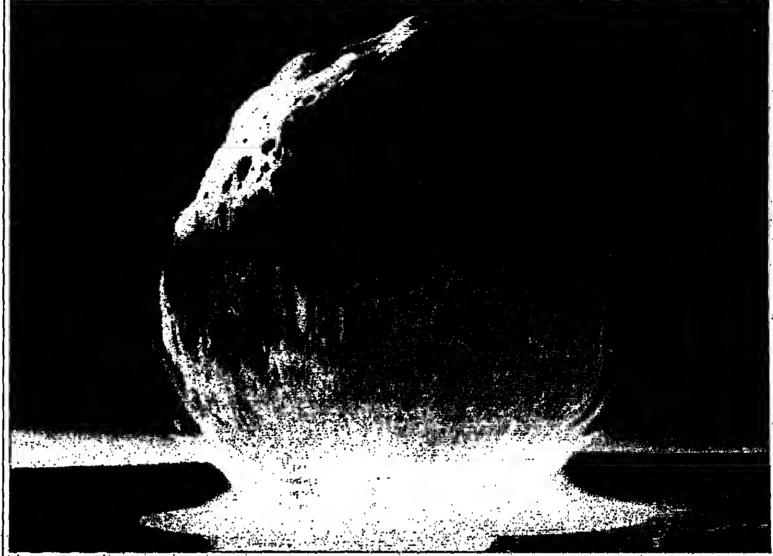
Under-age pregnancies hit a high

In 1996, 8,800 girls under 16 became pregnant.

re-opened it was announced vesterday.

of cancer within the next 20 years.

#### It could be us: 1000-1 chance of asteroid hitting Earth



Apocalypse 2028: Artist's impression of an asteroid plunging into the Earth's atmosphere, with catastrophic effect

PERHAPS THAT 30-year mortgage by hit as or simply whistle harmlessly asteroid four times larger almost cer-Charles Arthur, Science Editor. Au asteroid a mile wide is whirling towards 1 in 1,000 because of the errors inherent the Earth, and there's a chance - very much higher than of a lottery win - that unless we take some avoiding action, it will bit us and wipe out civilisation.

Discovered last year, and known as 1997 XF11, the object is certain to pass might collide: 6.30pm GMT, Thursday, 26 October 2028. What they can't anto calculate, is whether it will actual- ulation could be wiped out." An

in calculating its orbit.

An impact would be literally earthshaking, unleashing the energy of 100,000 hydrogen bombs, causing tidal waves, atmospheric shocks and throwing dust into the air which could induce closer than the Moon to the Earth, As- a new Ice Age. "It would cause a globtronomers even know when worlds al catastrophe," said Mark Bailey of the Armagh Observatory, an astronomer who takes a close interest in such asswer yet, and may need another year teroids. "A quarter of the world's pop-

wasn't such a smart buy after all, writes by 30,000 miles out in space. At present, the odds of an impact are put at hit the Earth 65 million years ago.

Benny Peiser, an anthropologist at Liverpool's John Moore's University who has made a special study of the potential effect of asteroid impacts, said: "We would regress to the level of the Dark Ages. All the trappings of modern life would be totally gone." But, he said, "the Government has completely ignored the whole area and the whole subject. We need a clear research strategy and funding for a detecting system of observatories scanning the sky

Scientists will get a chance to determine whether 1997 XF11 is on a collision course in 2002, when its orbit next

brings it near the Earth. If Farth does have a bullseve painted on it, then H-bombs - once regarded as a threat to civilisation - might be its saviour Professor Bailey explained: "The idea would be to give it a kick without blowing it into smaller pieces. You could detonate a warhead just off its surface, so it vapourises the dust layer: the jet effect would then divert it. But you would want to be very sure you weren't making it worse and diverting it closer."

#### Labour may offer luvvies seats on the board

for these objects."

By Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

THEY have caten countless overpriced fund-raising din- year. ners, given time and money to the cause and sipped champagne at Downing Street drinks parties. Now Luvvies for Labour could be offered a reward - seats on the board.

Anxious to avoid a repetition

beadquarters have suggested

Names suggested so far include the Eastenders actor Ross them from standing. Kemp, authors Ken Follett and United manager Alex Ferguson and former athlete Steve Cram.

elections to the party's ruling Labour are the actor Jeremy were fears that literally hun- no official slates.

National Executive Commit- Irons, film producer David Put- dreds of people might stand, tee, officials at the Millbank tnam, director Richard Atten- none of whose names would be borough and author Rath fielding a celebrity team this Rendell Strangely, all of these are now in the House of Lords, though this will not prevent

Last night a Labour Melvyn Bragg, Manchester spokesman said the party's cam- could see well-known celebrities paign team had made the "semi-serious" suggestion of a Among other arty types who celebrity line-up, reported in toof last year's left-wing rout in have made large donations to day's Tribune newspaper. There forward because there would be

familiar to most members. "The idea has been discussed, but in the end it isn't for people here to decide who stands for the NEC. People suggested as a sort of joke that you standing," he said.

However, it would be up to individuals to put their names

None of the celebrities suggested were available yesterday to say whether they relished attending monthly discussions on

about whether all Labour's fashionable friends are still loyal to Tony Blair, Even Ken Follett and his wife Barbara, previously at the centre of the Blairite glitterati, hosted a party recently at Number 11, home of Chancellor Gordon Brown.

London, before Mr Blair met Mr Trimble. The Ulster Unionist leader reinforced growing Unionist party rules, though. There was also some doubt

demands for progress on decommissioning before putting a settlement to their supporters. The issue of decommissioning has been dealt with in parallel with the talks, but the Unionist leaders are angry at what they believe are too many concessions to the Republicans. Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, told Unionists: "We all want decommissioning ... However, I

> Mr Adams emphasised the importance attached by Sinn Fein to the release of IRA prisoners as a result of a peace deal.

cannot force people to do it."



#### Ferrari boss tempts Schumacher with £52m and a job for life

By Nick Duxbury

THE PREDATORS circling the Ferrari camp looking for a sniff of Michael Schumacher have unnerved the prancing horse marque to the extent that they are prepared to offer the German driver a further £52m to see out his Formula One Agnelli, is reported to have approved a season, is still regarded as the best in the career with them.

Bild say that Fiat, who own Ferrari, are other three years followed by a lifetime 103 grands prix and won 27.

determined to prevent Schumacher, job as the company's roving ambassador. twice a world champion, joining Willi Weber, Schumacher's manager, McLaren-Mercedes next season. Schu-said: "I prefer not to say anything, just macher, currently paid £17.5m a year, this: there have been no negotiations so has a contract with the Italian Grand Prix far." team until the end of next season.

new contract that would keep the 29- business and one of the greatest racing Reports in the German newspaper year-old Schumacher at Ferrari for an-drivers of all time. He has competed in lock said recently. A comment that Fer-

Schumacher, despite losing the world However, the head of Fiat, Gianni championship to Jacques Villeneuve last

As well as McLaren, being in the frame for his services, the British American Racing team, who have taken over Tyrrell, have made no secret of their interest. Craig Pollock, BAR's team chief, would like to pair Schumacher with Villeneuve in 1999

"If I can go for Jacques Villeneuve, I can go for Michael Schumacher," Polrari have taken to heart.

INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 . CROSSWORDS, P32 AND EYE P30 . TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P32 . SPORT, P29-P32 . FULL CONTENTS, P2

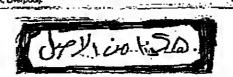
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# MPs in trouble for backing party policy

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Labour MPs calling for a Commonsbased Secretary of State for Justice scenes Cabinet committees. to replace the Lord Chancellor were under pressure from the whips last night - even though their demand unbolds existing party policy.

The policy was included in Labour's 1992 election manifesto, but it was dropped by Tony Blair in time for last year's election. By that stage, Mr Blair had already decided Lord

Irvine of Lairg, head of his legal chambers when he was a barrister, would become Lord Chancellor and an influential player in behind-the-

Government whips were yesterday piling the pressure on Labour MPs to pull their oames off the Commons motion calling for the creation of a new Department of Justice, with a Secretary of State answerable to the Commons. The motion, tabled by Labour backbencher Robert Marshall-Andrews QC, has upset the par-

with Tory attacks on Lord Irvine,

The Commons motion, which "unhelpful" criticism of the current Lord Chancellor's lack of accountto yesterday morning, three Labour MPs had withdrawn their support.

But Lord Irvine last night appeared to make light of his difficulties in a speech to Oxford University Labour Club, when he suggested he

hours, was officially regarded as an out to promote life-long learning and why it was important that it among those beyond school-age, "because we, who have got a little ability, as a minister in the Lords. Up more living time in than you, can also benefit from a touch of education

> now and again". late Labour leader, had also been disturbed by the declining strength of Lord Chancellor to be taken on by Parliament as a means of holding the an elected member of the Commons.

ty hierarchy because it coincides was still learning about the rough and executive to account. "He argued for tumble of politics. Delivering the the modernisation of its procedures John Smith Memorial Lecture, Lord so that ordinary people could better worked well. He described the hereditary principle in the House of Lords as 'bizarre' and supported its aboli-

> But the Commons motion, and Lord Irvine said John Smith, the the 1992 manifesto, went one step further, urging the executive role of the

Brian Sedgemore, one of the Labour signatories of the motion, said last night that he had received an invitation to meet Lord Irvine on Monday - something he welcomed as

a "charm offensive,"

The MP said that be had always supported the creation of a separate Department of Justice, as a countervailing power to the Home Office, which acts as a Ministry of the Interior, with responsibility for immigration, the police, prisons; and security in general."

# TOMORROW

Beano for a dandy: The artist who shocked the 1890s, Aubrey Beardsley, is having a birthday bash

■ What a gas: Michael Arditti on a new novel about the politics of soft drinks

Fashion queen: Can Wendy Dagworthy do for the Royal College of Art what she did for St Martin's?

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41.4% of the raw material for UK new papers in the first half of 1997.

#### **Ulster** peace deal 'is close' From page I Speaking in Downing Street

after talks lasting almost an hour, Mr Adams touched on one of the most sensitive issues in the talks for the nationalists by acknowledging that a united Ireland could not be achieved by the referendum in May. Like Mr Trimble, Mr

Adams is playing a balancing act with his own supporters, and the London Government regards his public acceptance that a united Ireland cannot be achieved in the current talks process as a crucial step forward to securing a "yes" vote in May. Mr Blair and the Sinn Fein

team, led by Mr Adams, discussed details of the package being thrashed out in the talks. including a power-sharing assembly in Belfast, cross-border bodies, and joint arrangements between Loodoo and Dublin.

Mr Adams said he wanted Sinn Fein to return to the talks "at the earliest possible opportunity", probably in nine days' time after a Sinn Fein executive meeting endorsed the decision.

There was little doubt that after serving a two-week suspension for two killings linked to the IRA, Sinn Fein would return to the talks, and Mr Adams made the most of the face-toface meeting with the Prime Minister before flying to the United States to join his party's chief negotiator, Martin Day celebrations bosted oext week by President BillClinton.

He said that Republicans remained committed to securing a lasting settlement for Northern Ireland, but stressed that Sinn Fein viewed any agreement as being part of a "rolling process" and that they remained committed to their long term aim of a united Ireland.

WILLIAM HAGUE last night

The new Conservative were economic challenges. families, that support parents

Blair said: Families work best that there was no question of retreated from his party's leader told a convection of But British Conservatives who are trying to bring up when the members of it help the Ibries allowing Britain to Thatcherite "obsession" with the Australian Liberal Party in also understand that society is their children to be decent cit—and sustain each other. The economics and joined Tony Brisbane: "I am immensely more than just a marketplace izens, that reinforce local com- same is true of communities to the new Conservative agenda, writes Anthony Bevins. the world."

Mr Blair used "community" as one of the key elements of his Labour leadership back in 1994, deliberately exploiting Margaret Thatcher's perceived repudiation of society as the spring-board for an attack on Conservative selfishness and social breakdown

servative Party and its leaders achieved for my country and for

However, he added: "Like many ceotre-right parties around the world, the Conservative Party came to be seen as being a party obsessed with economics. That was not surprising since so many of the challenges of the 1980s

the only relationship is between buyer and seller. There are ties of family and communnity and nation that mean more than prices on a shop counter will ever do."

Irish question: Gerry Adams talks to Sinn Fein's only southern Irish MP, Caoimhghin O'Caolain, after meeting Mr Biair at Downing Street yesterday

Hague embraces Blair's community values

Mr Hague said his party would work to strengthen those ties. "Over the coming years." he said, "the Conservative Party will develop policies that belp

and that preserve our democracy and national ideotity".

A recognition that the country's sense of community had been lost, if not destroyed, and needed to be rebuilt, was one of the distinctive selling points of Mr Blair's leadership.

In his first party conference speech as Labour leader, at Blackpool, in October 1994, Mr rope, repeating the warning

"Community is oot some piece of nostalgia. It means what we share. It means working together, it is about how we treat each other... The Tories despise such principles."

Against that benchmark, last night's political shift by Mr Hague was remarkable enough. But he stood firm on Eumiss as dangerous fantasy.

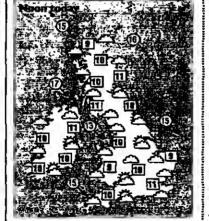
Photograph: David Rose

Mr Hague said: "Asserting the importance of national identity is not the same as being little Englanders.

We believe Britain has a leading role to play in the future of the European Union. But we also believe Britain has a global role that goes beyood the confines of Europe."

nerica shows infrom rich d

#### WEATHER



little sunshine breaking florough at tornes. Other areas will drizzle in the north and west. Drizzle is most Riely in the far south-west of England, and in the north and west of Northern heland and Soutland, where some bill tog is blety.

Outlook for the next few days high pressure to the south-west of the LIK will be maintained. However, a week tortal system will cross Scotland ther move south down the North Sea on Salunday. This will bring a little light rain to some northern and eastern parts but elsowhere will be dry. It will remain mild everywhere. Sunday will also be mild and mostly dry with some decent spells of

British Isles weather mot control salability of the Colomy, Colomy, Flat; Fy.log Hz.ham; M.miet; R.Jak; S.,anny; St, short; S.Jahoven; S.,anny; Th, Sander interess r 8 48 interior c 5 41 inter of Selfly 1 18 80 Syr r 8 48
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INDEPENDENT Weatherline

High tides Den Lausten Height anges Lighting-up times Sun & moon See rate: 06.20 See tale: 16.07

Moon days, 19,27 Moon safe 06,34

Atlantic chart, noon today Links

# HARTSTON WEATHER WISE

THE authorities in Singapore this week announced a new public campaign to reduce the number of people hit by lightning. Last year, six people were killed by lightning, and nine died in the previous year -which is roughly the same as the number of deaths from lightning in Britain, where the population is 20 times the size.

Singapore, in fact, has one of the highest rates of lightningstrikes in the world, with 20 per square kilometre per year. Because of that, the present plans include the construction of lightning shelters in parks and on beaches, the installation of a 15,000 Singapore dollars (about £6,000) thunderstorm early warning system in every school, anti-lightning netting over school entrances and bus shelters, setting up a lightning safety hot line, and a programme of education about the hazards of lightning. Presumably this would include such sensible advice as not to use the lightning hotline wheo thunderstorms are about. A complete scientific explana-

tion of lightning has still not been found. At a high level in the atmosphere, the ionosphere carries a positive electric charge thanks to radiation. The Earth, however, is weather, so cloud droplets may acquire an induced positive charge

on their Earth-facing sides, and a negative charge on their upper sides. The breakup of raindrops and splintering of ice crystals, bowever, both increase the separation of electric charges of opposite sign, but the mathematical models of electrical behaviour within clouds does not quite tally with measurements taken. Generally, clouds tend to be positively charged at the top, and negatively at the bottom, but some anomalous patches of electrical ac-tivity occur within clouds that have so far defied explanation.

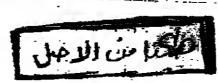
Lightning occurs when a high negative charge at the bottom of a cloud induces a positive charge on the ground beneath it. Wheo these electrical forces are large enough, they will overcome the resistance of the air and a flash will come down from the cloud to bridge the gap in the circuit. It will be met by a return stroke from the ground, but since both travel at about a third of the speed of light, the two flashes appear as one. Fur-ther strokes flash back and forth until the cloud has drained its negative charge. The temperature of the lightning flash is around 30,000C, which creates a rapid expansion of the air around its channel, resulting in the shock waves of sound that we hear as thunder.

According to a paper in the Journal of Meteorology in 1991 ("Lightning Deaths and Sex", by, Paul R Brown), statistics show that men are six times as likely as women to be killed by lightning. This, be suggests, is simply because men are more likely than women to be outside in exposed areas. Or, to put it simply, men play golf.

If you are hit by lightning, you may die from the burns, or more likely from the jolt of electricity that the action of the Sun's ultraviolet can cause heart failure. Nevertheless, records show that nine out oegatively charged during fine of 10 people struck by lightning survive. Holding a golf club, however, greatly shortens the odds.







t far å ve.

Prostate will soon top cancer league

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

PROSTATE cancer in men is set to top the cancer league within 20 years. The rapid rise in the disease is being fuelled by the ageing of the population and increased awareness, making it urgent that a means of identifying those at risk is found, Professor Colin Cooper, of the Institute of Cancer Research, said yesterday.

Prostate cancer is the fourth commnnest cancer behind those of the lung, breast and bowel. Cases of the cancer have risen by half in the UK in the last two decades tn 16,000 a year, but in the US where screening is widespread they have soared three-fold to almost 200,000 cases a year.

The institute is developing a two-stage test that would not only detect the presence of the cancer, but would also identify those meo in whom it was likely to progress rapidly.

The prostate is the gland at the base of the bladder which makes the seminal fluid io which the sperm swim. Despite the improved detection rate in the US there had been no fall n deaths up to 1993, the latest year for which figures were available, Professor Cooper said. That could now change. Early reports from North America suggested there had been a fall in deaths and in cases of advanced disease over the

last five years. "If it turns out that screening leads to a reduction in a gene marker."

Signs of prostate cancer can be detected by a blood test known as the PSA (prostate specific antigen) test, but this gives no clue as to bow fast the cancer is likely to grow. Only one in five men who test positive for PSA will go on to develop life threatening disease and two NHS studies have rejected the introduction of PSA screening in the UK on these grounds.

Professor Cooper, who is to head the first Centre for Urological Sciences in the UK to be built at the Institute, said that using silicon chip technology to identify gene markers for the disease, it should be possible to predict which men had the most aggressive form of the can-

He said prostate cancer was perceived as a disease of old men and attracted only £1 million of research funding for every £16 million spent on breast cancer. However, nne in 20 cases ran in families with strong genetic link and could affect men in their 40s.

The cause of the cancer is oot understood but is thought to be linked with diet. The incidence is six times higher in the US than in Japan, but Japanese men who emigrate to the US quickly acquire the American

■ A vaccine against cervical cancer, which could end the oeed for screening against the disease, is undergoing preliminary tests in humans.

Dr Judy Deacon, an epidemiologist at the institute, said animal studies had shown that vaccination can prevent indeaths in the US there will be fection with the human papiloverwhelming pressure to in- loma virus which causes genital troduce the test here. Potentially, - warts and is known to be prewithat could create a problem for sent in almost all cases of cerus which is why we need to find vical cancer. But it would be ten years before it was available.



On sticky wicket: Trevor McDonald's sombre tones could be a thing of the past

Photograph: Brian Harris

TREYOR'S ADMIRERS McDonald is subject to many musual requests. Perhaps the most bizarre one came from a consultant physician who wanted the newscaster to send a message of encouragement to his group of incontinent female patients. The ladies had been asked to think of someone they admired when doing their exercises. This resulted in the

HIS BIGGEST MISTAKE His worst moment on screen was when John McCarthy was turned into a farce for the ITN team. McCarthy's plane landed during the commercial break and McDonald was, in any case, lost for words during the event. But the most embarrassing aspect was that he announced that the RAC, not the RAF, had flown the freed hostage back to Britain.

HIS GREATEST PASSION McDonald Is famed for his calm demeanour, but this quality desert him when he discusses cricket. After the West Indies were forced by a poor pitch to abandon their anuary Test with England in lamaica, this usually moderate ournalist declared that West ndian cricket had been reduced to force. "For nonective," he said, "trk been surviving solely on memories of a glorious past. "Today it is in danger of foundering in a morass of official shortsightedness, indifference and incompetence."

#### Bong ... will News at Ten move to eleven? Bong ... will viewers protest? And finally ... will Trevor stay?

AND FINALLY ... are the bongs about to toll for Trevor McDonald? The future of Britain's Mr Nice Newscaster looks suddenly uncertain amid fresh reports that News at Ten may be moved way past bedtime, writes Jack O'Sullivan. That once grand institution, it is rumoured, faces demotion to News at Eleven, after the big film and clashing with Newsnight on BBC2.

Those who brew their Horlicks in time for McDonald's closing quip would mean such a move. Not least because Trinidad's most famous son could also prove a casualty. After all, could Trevor any longer resist the lucrative temptations of newsreading for Sky in the face of such humiliation? And would ITN executives want him in any case to keep the late slot? For, over on Channel 5, the fresh-faced, award-winning young pretender Kirsty Young is proving a great crowd-buller. Most modorizant she has newscast assy mix of Anna Ford and Selina Scott, deIN THE NEWS

TREVOR McDONALD

livering the latest disaster story in unhurried husky tones. Every advertiser has those wellheeled guys as their chief target. And no oce doubts which oewsreader is best-placed to keep the blokes up late at night. Given ITV's obsession with winning eyeballs for advertisers, radical change is on the agenda.

So, all in all, Trevor's microphooe may be on a Shaky nadi. Newarth class, at 50, he has had a good innings: on the spot for the fall of the Berlin Wall, he was first to interview Nelson Mandela after his release. And he was famously invited a spell over devoted young males, who love her in for a one-to-one with Saddam Hussein while Kuwait's sand was still fresh between the dic-

tator's toes. Hugely respected for his immaculate presentatioo and professiooalism, he symbolises the charms of a lost past: hooesty, integrity, politeness. Benign neutrality and the perfect grammar of his deracinated English are his trade marks. He is to white Middle Britain the acceptable face of black immigration.

So the Bufton Tufton teodency at the Daily Telegraph has no problem accepting a weekly column from him. And a man who once dubbed himself "a West Indian peasant" is at ease advising Blimpish readers on which are the finest poems in the English language. As chair of the Better English Campaign, he has even taken his crusade to a political level. It's a charming style which has served many purposes, not least conferring respectability on the dumbing down of ITN news, which has increasingly shifted to tabloidesque coverage.

McDonald's fascination with the media began in Trinidad, where he was born the son of

an oil refinery worker, who supplemented his small income by raising pigs. His father wanted him to be a doctor, or an engineer, or Gary Sobers. Instead, picking up his familiar sombre tones by listening to the BBC at home, he joined the World Service in 1969, going oo to be a reporter, diplomatic correspondent and newscaster for BBC, ITN and Channel 4 News. Already holder of an OBE, he would be an odds-on favourite for a knighthood had the Tories clung to power. John Major - who shares Mc-Donald's passinn for cricket - was a great fan and fought previous attempts to alter News at Ten's scheduling. The ex-PM will remember Mc-Donald's sugary interview with him which Labour politicians condemned as "fawing".

The nation loves this man who pays them the compliment of being more British than themselves. But a vestige of a golden age can quickly look like a relic - especially with Kirsty Young looking over his shoulder.



#### America shows way to win cash from rich donors

By David Lister Arts News Editor

Donations to the arts will mulciply many times if the Chanrellor makes all donations tax deductible in his budget, the secretary of the Royal Academy said last night.

Speaking at a special debate 00 arts funding mounted by The Independent Save the Arts campaign and the Royal Academy, David Gordon urged that "the arts need to campaign with facts and analysis as well as with passion".

Giving a lead on this, he made a detailed comparison with the American system, where all arts organisations are charities. "Americans have a specific section oo their tax return," he said. "Donations to charities are itemised in this sectinn and deducted from the income on which tax is paid. Each dollar given reduces the tax bill. This is called itemisation. Very simple, very effective, ind as a result two thirds of personal giving is itemised ...

"American individuals gave \$120bn or £75bn to charities in 1996. This is equivalent to £280 for every man, woman and





Gordon Brown and Genista McIntosh of the National Theatre flanking the campaign logo

child. Individuals in Britain gave £4.3bn to charities, nr about £70 for every man, woman and child . Simplifying giving will lead to much greater giving."

The Royal Academy of Arts and The Independent Forum. on Government Funding of the Arts examined the future of arts funding in Britain, following The Independent and Independent on Sunday campaign urging the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, to make all donations to the arts tax deductible in the forthcoming budget.

We are urging Mr Brown to use his budget to introduce a

people to make tax-free donations to arts companies and venues. A simple system could be brought in to replace the muddled and cumbersome system of tax relief through covenants and the Gift Aid Scheme.

Last night's panel included Jude Kelly, the artistic director of the West Yorkshire Playhouse; Genista McIntosh, executive director of the National Theatre, David Gordon, secretary of the Royal Academy and Peter Jenkinson of the New Art Gallery, Walsall.

Mr Jenkinson made reference to the exhibition Art Treachange in taxation law to enable sures of England, the Regional

Collections, on show at the Royal Academy. He said: "We should pause to reflect upon the enormous generosity of former generations who enable us to enjoy what we see on the walls today. In the mean-spirited 1990s ... a reminder of such publicspiritedness in such huge pro-

portions is refreshing to witness: "Public spiritedness toward the arts today will be hugely encouraged by the incentive that all contributions should be tax deductible. People want to support their favourite galleries and other arts institutions. They should be supported in this wish, not discouraged from doing so."



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Mapplethorpe publishers defy vice squad

By Paul Routledge Crime Correspondent

THE PUBLISHERS of a book by the controversial photographer Robert Mapplethorpe yesterday refused demands by a police vice squad to remove two "offending" pictures or to pulp the publication.

The West Midlands police's Paedophile and Pornography Unit is expected to attempt to prosecute Random House pubfor two photographs they consider porno-

If they are successful they will force bibraries to cut out the two images or destroy

The University of Central England in Birmingham, where a complaint about the ed to face prosecution.

The two photographs the police want to ban are Helmut and Brooks, NYC, 1978, which shows a man "fisting" - a form of anal sex - another man. And Jim and Tom, Sausalito, 1977, which is of a man clad in a dog collar, a leather mask and trousers,

urinating into another man's mouth. Gail Rebuck, Chief Executive of Ranshers under the Obscene Publications Act dom House, yesterday attacked the move and said: "We consider this investigation to be wholly misguided, and are assonished that a scholarly work of such acknowledged artistic and literary merit should be at risk

We will be making representation police that they had grounds to ask the unithrough our lawyers that no action should versity to voluntarily destroy it.

book was originally made, is also expect- be taken, and still hope that sense will prevail." The statement followed a meeting yesterday at Belgravia police station in London between Dan Franklin, publishing director of Jonathan Cape, which is part of Random House, and detectives from the West Midlands police.

The university has already refused to voluntarily destroy the book. Mapplethorpe, a copy of which is in the

British Library and most university libraries, was seized by police last October. Lawyers acting for the Crown Prosecution Service decided parts of it were likely to "deprave or corrupt" under the 1959 Obscene Publications Act and advised the

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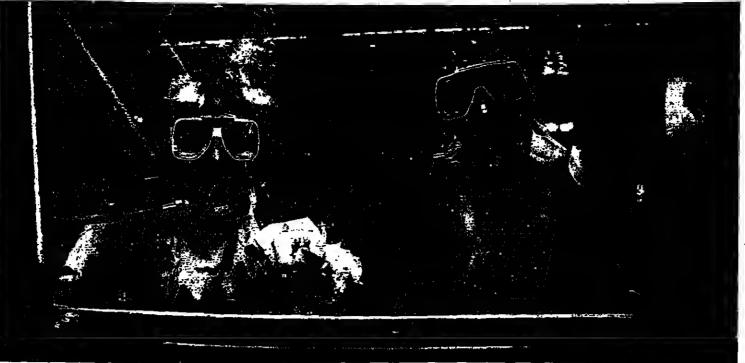
#### Church loses to zoos and stately homes for weddings

Social Affairs Correspondent

THE WAY we get married is altering dramatically, with people iocreasingly choosing their own venue frather thao having a church wedding.

"Approved premises" - those which applied to become wedding venues under new regulations from 1995 - have made significant inroads in the wedding business with a fourfold increase in the space of a year. In one county (Monmouthshire), approved premises now account for one in five of all marriages. And in some counties church weddings dropped by as much as 20 per ceot.

The law was changed in 1995, al- and an old ironclad battleship. lowing local authorities to approve hotels and stately homes although office weddings fell from 149,000 to



some of the more exotic include a zoo

In the first year, approved premispremises for solemnising civil mar- es claimed 4,000 marriages, but the folriages. Since April that year, more than lowing year there were 15,000. 2,000 have been approved, primarily Between 1994-5 and 1996-7 register

146,000 and church wedding dropped from 135,000 to 114,000.

Ian Callister of Cheshire County Council, which has the highest number of approved locations, said the reason for the rise was the beautiful

provided the interior of the film medieval Peckforton Castle. "We performed nearly 1,000 weddings in 1997 - we had to hire nine extra part-time deputy registrars," said Mr Callister.

Wedding Venues Guide, named sever-Brideshead Revisited) and the mock- al factors: "First, people are moving away from the church and looking for alternatives ... churches can also be quite difficuit about second-time round marriages, or getting married outside

# Mystery sinking faces new scrutiny

By Kim Sengupta

THE Government has ordered a public inquiry into the sinking of the ship Derbyshire in a typhoon off the coast of Japan 19 years ago after receiving a survey report described as "one of the century's greatest feats of underwater detective work".

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, who is himself a former seaman, announced the decisioo following a report from an officially financed underwater survey of the wreck of the 169,000 tonnes cargo carrier which capsized with the loss of

Mr Prescott described the £2 million survey, funded by Britain and the EU, as not only one of the greatest pieces of underwater detective work this century, but even more impressive than the research done oo the Titanic.

The survey report authors said structural faults did not cause the loss of the ship in September 1980. The report said that an unsecured hatch had led to the flooding of the bow area of the ship, lowering it into the waves. The force of the water ripped off the hatch covers, filled the cargo holds, and caused the ship to sink rapidly.

Robin Williams, the chief scientist on the expedition, said the Derbyshire was caught in typhoon Orphid and buffeted by 80ft waves. Successive hatch covers down the ship either exploded or imploded with the force of 17 tonnes of TNT

The time from the hatch covers being ripped off to the stern sinking was just two minutes, and the sheer speed of the impending disaster meant a may-

Williams continued: " Crews in this case don't know what's happening and that's good for the families of the victims in a way. It will give them some som of solace".

picture of total destruction with parts of this huge ship ripped apart lying torn and crumpled on the sea bed". More than 135,000 photographs were taken, and 2,000 pieces of wreckage examined. There was, according to the assessors, no one single reason for the sinking of the Derbyshire, but a combination of factors,

Relatives of the 42 crew members and two wives who died, as well as shipping unions and shipping experts, had long maintained that the Derbyshire and other bulk carriers were structurally unsound.

Asked his views on this, Mr Williams responded: "This is not a clean bill of bealth for the industry. We have ignored the signs and are still ignoring signs. Ships are being lost. There are no winners in this, there is a lessoo for everybody in this sink-

The report made a number of recommendations including a review of the regulations regarding how low in the water ships should sit, the possible strengthening of cargo hatch covers and the positioning of all veotilators, air pipes and access hatches.

The Deputy Prime Minister invited interested parties to submit representations on whether the formal investigation should be re-opened in whole or in part, the questions it should address, and whether it should be at the High Court or day call was not put out. Mr "before a Wreck Commissioner. 🚁

#### Medical chief denies MMR ccine link to autism

SIR KENNETH CALMAN, the Government's chief medical officer, moved to allay public alarm over the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine yesterday after huodreds of pareots had requested the vaccinations separately.

Sir Kenneth said there was no scientific evidence that giving separate doses was any safer than the combined vaccine and could increase the risks to children.

Sir Kenneth was responding to a paper in The Lancet medical journal last mooth suggesting there may be a link between MMR vaccination and inflammatory bowel disease and antism in some children. He said: "Independent experts and I have seen the published research and we are not convinced that there is indeed any link. No evideoce has been published that demonstrates that MMR plays a part io autism."

Letters were sent to all GPs yesterday confirming that the

#### £1 m for parenting skills

PARENTS who oeed help to prevent family breakdown are to be given new skills and support with the aid of a £1m Gov-ernment grant, the health minister Paul Boateng said yesterday. He was speaking at the Families and Early Intervention con-

ference in London which warned that there was no "magic bullet" solution to anti-social behaviour amongst young people. However early support for families can prevent breakdown and is not only beoeficial to families and gives children a good

start in life but it also saves money in the long term. Research in Britain and America has shown that early intervention works. Projects include the Waterville Projects for Children and Young People, North Tyneside and Minsthorpe Community College, West Yorkshire.

#### Hunt for missing woman

A POLICE computer operator has become the subject of an intensive land and air search by the Humberside Police.

Kirsty Carver, 22, employed by the police for four years, went missing a week ago, leaving officers completely baffled. "This is completely out of character with Kirsty," said Lisa Hobson, a police press officer. "She was a very pretty girl, with a lot of friends and had a very loving family." Kirsty Carver is 5'2" with long brown hair, and was last seen wearing a black coat, blue jeans and black shoes. The car was found abandoned in a quiet country lane at Willerby, near Hull.

#### Former Taoiseach to retire

ALBERT REYNOLDS, the former Taoiseach whose diplomacy forged the 1993 Downing Street Joint Declaration by Dublin and London which paved the way for the August 1994 IRA ceasefire, announced he is to retire from politics at the

Mr Reynolds, 65, said he had "made his contribution" to politics Ireland and was oow concentrating on his business interests abroad. His family owns a successful pet foods

#### Literary snub US to writers

Judges of the world's richest literary prize yesterday all but excluded US writers from the shortlist. Ten novels will compete in May for the £100,000 IMPAC Dublin literary award for any fiction published in English (including translations), but the only US novel is Jamaica Kincaid's Autobiography of my Mother. Cootenders familiar to British readers include Graham Swift's Last Orders and Margaret Atwood's Alias Grace.

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5/NEWS

chief denies MMR

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# £300,000 slap on wrist for ICI after toxic leak

By Nicholas Schoon **Environment Correspondent** 

BRITAIN'S higgest chemical company received its largestever fine in the UK yesterday, after 150 tonnes of toxic chloroform gushed out of a pipe and polluted groundwater for decades, and perhaps for cen-

The Government's Environment Agency was delighted with the £300,000 fine against ICL, saying it sent a clear signal to boardrooms that pollution did not pay. But even though it is Britain's second biggest fine for any pollution crime, it is less than one tenth of one per cent of the group's pre-tax worldwide profits.

The leak was only discovered when a cootractor spotted a three-foot high fouotain of chloroform gushing from a brokeo filter in a pipe at ICI Chemicals and Polymers sprawling site at Runcorn, Cheshire. The escape, which happened in broad daylight, weot undiscovered for fourand-a-half hours in April last

which caused serious environmental damage," said the environment ageocy's chief executive, Ed Gallagher.

"I hope the scale of today's fine is an indication that the courts are beginning to understand the impact of what industry does when it pollutes the

Warringtoo Crown Court was told that as well as polluting the Westoo Canal and nearby River Weaver, 123 tonnes of the chloroform sank into the

There is a chance that several decades from now it could pollute a drinking water horehole four miles away at Frod-

The maximum concentratioo allowed in drinking water is 100 parts per billion.

The chloroform, made for use in refrigerators, can cause unconsciousness and prolonged exposure causes kidney and liver damage. There were no reports of people living or working nearby suffering any ill

ICI pleaded guilty to causing pollution and oot keeping its equipment in good operat-

ing condition, and was ordered to pay £51,200 compensation and costs. Judge David Hale said adequate risk assessments had oot been carried out and there had not been proper monitoring of chloroform flow in the pipeline which would have alerted ICI to the problem.

A company spokesman said: "We're sorry it happened and we're taking all steps to make sure nothing like this happens again. We thought the fine would be a big ooe."

ICI hopes the court case will end a sorry chapter of pollutioo bungles which damaged its reputation last year.

Escapes of hazardous gases and liquids at several plants led to prosecutions. A 'hit squad' of six Environment Agency pollutioo inspectors was sent into its Ruocorn plant to carry out an emergency audit of company procedures last May following three serious incideots, including the chloroform es-

The largest pollution fine in Britain was £1 million, imposed on Shell UK after a massive oil pipeline leak seriously polluted the Mersey Estuary in 1989.

#### stitueocy. Sinn Fein tag

computer complex was first pro-

posed, under the previous gov-

eroment, there was talk of

locating it in either Huntington

(John Major's constituency) or

in Guildford, another Tory heart-

land. Studies done at the Dept

of Ag showed that locating it in

the North might actually prove

more expensive. But the new gov-

ernmeot's decision to locate the

Cow Computer in the North re-

flects a "nothing new south of the

M4 policy", in the words of ooe

Oh, by the way, Workingtoo

is oot a million miles from Jack

Cunningham's Copeland con-

Whitehall source.

WHEN Gerry Adams left Downing Street yesterday, he drove away in a Toyota people carrier, closely followed by a Range Rover. Tagging aloog behind them came a rather scruffy blue Metro with a dent in the back. It was driven by Cherie Blair, blissfully unaware that for a few moments she had joined the Sinn Fein motorcade.

#### Soho country

SOHO HOUSE, the Londoo cinema "player's" answer to the Groucho Club, is joining the countryside movement. The club has acquired ao 18th-century manor, Bavington House, for The plan is to open a 30-bedroom retreat with screening room, editing suite and health spa oo August 1st. Soho House has 2,000 members and from what Pandora has seen of them at 2.30am in the club's raucous smoke-filled bar, they could benefit from a bit of fresh air.

Other activities planned for Soho-in-Somerset include riding. cricket and croquet. One mem-ber wonders if they'll have outdoor lighting to accommodate the club's many night-owls who might faocy a post-midnight round of competitive mallets. Hopefully, someone will explain to the club's more restless bar regulars that "looking for a fox" has a rather different meaning in the West Country than it does on Greek Street

#### Oh, Barbie!



FHM, the fantastically successful UK men's magazine whose circulation has soared far above 600,000, is being sued by Mattel Inc, the maoufacturers of Barbie and Ken dolls, in a Los Angeles court. Their complaint photographs of the dolls io sexually explicit, "improper" positions were published in the magazine and have damaged the plastic couple's "wholesome" image.

Pandora rang the mag's edi-tor, but his assistant said, "He doeso't wish to comment." Would James Brown, editor of GQ and founding editor of Loaded, ever say that? Come to think of it, after glancing through FHM it appears that one of its editorial secrets for success is exactly this: don't say much but look at those dolls!

Pandora

THE Harrods boss Moharned Al Fayed raises his hands as he leaves a French court yesterday under the protection of gendarmes.

Mr. Fayed had met Judge Herve Stephan who is Investigating the death of Diana, Princess of Wales and Mr Fayed' son, Dodi, and who is said to have been furious about his well-publicised

conspiracy theory claims. The meeting at the Palais de Justice came as it emerged that the Ricz hotel tried to stop staff talking to police about Henri Paul's

drinking "for the benefit of the Royal Family".

A report in L'Express magazine claimed that a barman at L'Espadon, where Mr Paul and Trevor Rees-lones, the sole survivor, had been waiting for the couple on the night of the crash, said he saw the driver staggering and brush against another barman as he left.

The next day, the barman claimed a senior executive at the Ritz, owned by Mr Fayed, told him to tell police that Mr Paul had drunk only fruit

#### Poets war of words leaves blood on the studio carpet

By David Lister Arts News Editor

IT IS NOT often that Radio 4's Today programme features a discussion on poetry. After yesterday's diversioo into literary criticism it might employ extra security men before doing so again. "Give me politics any day." said shell-shocked interviewer Alex Brodie at the end of the

literary debate. In the studio was Michael Horovitz, the godfather of performance poetry, creator of the Royal Albert Hall poetry Olympics. He was invited to comment on new-wave performance poet Murray Lachlan Young. The Byroniomaned rock'n'roll poet won a reputed film deal from EMI and has just written a poem for a Virgin Atlantic advertising

Fortunately, Lachlan Young was not in the studio, or there might have been blood on the Broadcasting House carpets. The unfortu-nate Chris Meade, director of the Poetry Society, was there, but you would hardly have known it as Horovitz, despite entreaties, barely let him get a word in and refused to be silenced, yelling that Lachlan Young will be forgotten in eight minutes" as Mr Brodie tried to move on to the next

The nub of Horovitz's literary argument went as follows: "If he [Lachlan Young] is a poet at all, he's not a very good poet ... a poet aged 28 is lauded to the skies, but at the age of 28 he has written a load of garbage ... He's gig there.

dressed up to look like Byron, that doesn't make him write like Byron ... and forget about the £1m ... he hasn't made more than £30,000."

Lachlan Young's spokeswoman said yesterday that he had made considerably more than £30,000.

But, the literary debate

did oot end there. For Lach-

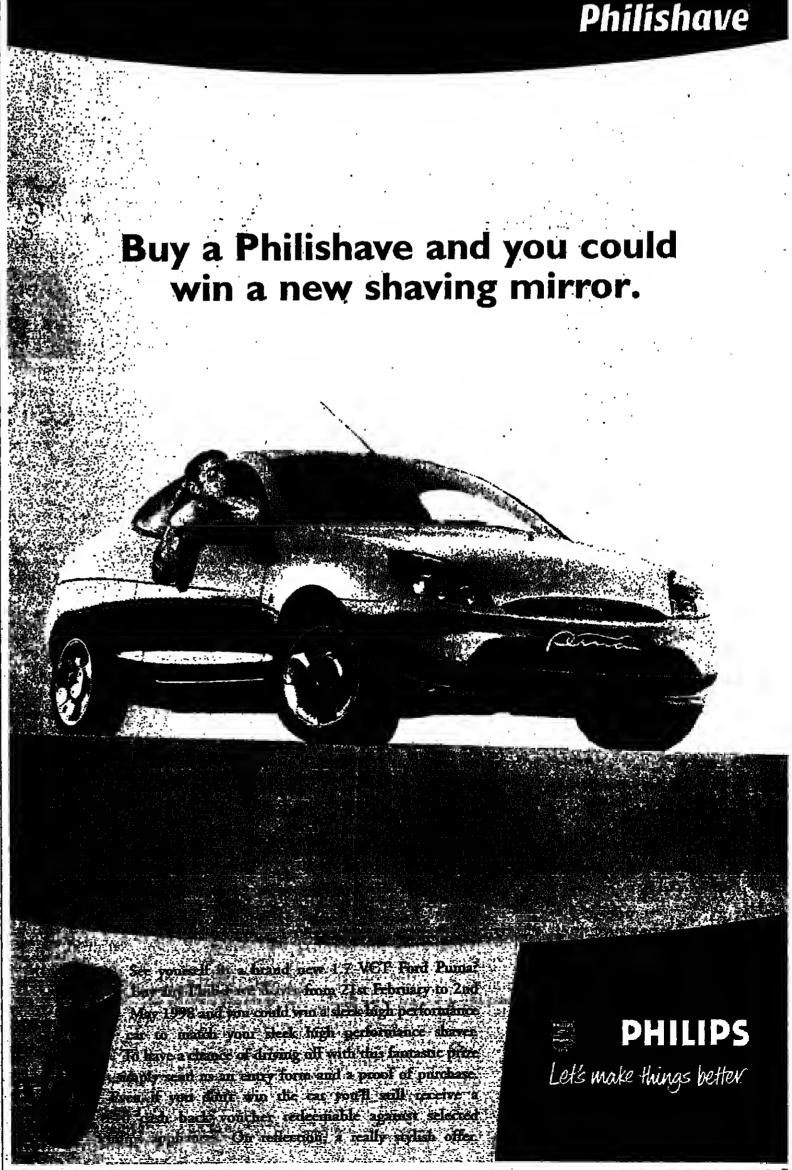
lan Young happened to be listening to the radio at home. A few hours later he summoned up his powers of imagery and lyricism to hit back "Yes," he sighed, "I'm sitting at home sticking a photograph of myself on a punchbag to send to Michael Horovitz. I expect his unnatural obsession with me is more of a sexual thing. But I draw the line at sending a rubber doll."

Lachlan Young's verse for Virgin seems unexceptionable, if a little repetitive in style and rhyming scheme. He rhapsodises over the in-flight. eotertainment system as "Destination Stimulation". He rhapsodises over the business-class seats as being available for an "extra donation". And he rhapsodises yet again over business class as "Destinatioo Relaxation". The Horovitz revenge is

coming. He says he is working on a poem called A New Wasteland denouncing the commercialism that has sprouted phenomena like Lachlan Young. But for now the last word belongs to Lachlan Young. He revealed last night that Horovitz's son Adam, who runs a poetry chib in Stroud, Gloucestershire, has invited him to do a

Extract from A New Wasteland

The rock of artistic aspirations today -Publishing, Broadcasting, Prizegiving, So-called critical standardising Seems immalleably fixed, defined, Motivated and controlled by a Transatlantic Dunciad of accountants Profiteers, expert packagers ...





By Steve Boggan

JOHN PRESCOTT'S son spoke for the first time yester- for which Mr Prescott junior day of the "nightmare" week he works, for an average price of Prescott's employer, and a felhas spent since being accused of £5,300 each. involvement in a controversial

gation ioto the deal today, Juhnathan Prescott junior told board. The Independent: "The whole

audit will prove it."
Mr Prescott, 34, broke his silence as one of the two selfstyled "researchers" who have been touting information about his father denied being involved in a political dirty tricks cam-

The Deputy Prime Minister ordered senior officials from the Department of the Envirooment to examine the sale of 25 going on," he said. "I won't go

Developments Ltd, a company a lot to say afterwards."

price was too low, hut Mr As anditors prepared to Prescott junior said: "The deal hand over results of an investi- was completely fair and completely normal. It was all above

thing was above board and the absolute nightmare; but I am sure the audit will show what really happened."

Mr Prescott referred to the a modest return. actions of Ian Newton, 42, one of the "researchers" who was arbail in connection with a hurglary at a city centre office in which some papers were stolen.

"People are beginning to see what sort of stuff has been

houses from the North Huil into details until after the au-Housing Actioo Trust to Wyke ditor's report but I might have

Simoo Cutting, low director of Wyke Property Some have argued that the Services Ltd, a holding company which will cootrol the houses, said he had been given the option of selling oo the houses immediately to first-time buyers - possibly at a profit - or of "The past week has been an committing them for reotal at up to £50 a week for 10 years. He chose the latter, a move which will eventually result in

"This is only happening because John is working for me rested and released on police and someone is out to get his father," he said. "Last summer, before we even got involved in this deal, someone was ringing estate agents and asking if they could get the same kind of 'special rate' they gave to Simon

Cutting and John Prescott. They were trying to suggest

that we were in cahoots with the .. building society to organise repossessions. And they haven't given up on us yet." The second researcher. Matthew Parkes, 31, who

sought sanctuary from the media at a Hull police station on Tuesday night with Mr Newton. denied that disaffected Labour councillors had hired him to dir dirt on Mr Prescott senior. He told the Yorkshire Post

that he and Mr Newton had received only £5 for photocopying and that money was not his motive.

"From my point of view we wanted to see whether there was anything in the sleaze allegations discussed on shopfloors in Hull," he said. "I certainly think there's enough here to warrant



Small stage: John Prescott in rehearsal for a local drama production at Hull City Hall

#### Self-contained city where feuds fester and grudges take grip

Hull provides a unique environment for political intrigue, says Andrew Buncombe

Trains stop at Hull. It is, in more

than one sense, the end of the line

unconfidential information to particularly students at the well-

1897, without a cathedral, but it is essentially a large village. Everybody seems to know everybody else, everyone seems to be a distant relative of everyone and a persoo's business is rarely private. It is easy to see how in this insular environment, grudges and fends grow and smoulder. The local polit-

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ical scene is a case in point.
While the 60-member Hull City Council may he made up of 58 Labour councillors there is - in the best traditions of the Labour Party - plenty of scope for infighting. As the Hull Daily Mail, said yesterday: "What this week's episode has underlined is the continuing un-

healthy state of politics in Hull." Indeed if ever there was a place where a prominent politician such as John Prescott might be the victim of a smear campaign launched by rivals, Hull would be the ideal envi-

Controversy surrounding the former seaman dates back to the early 70s when he was first became an MP, and there is no doubt that he has ruffled plentwof feathers over the years. But tent culturally, is part of its the evidence suggests that the charm.

HULL achieved city status in Deputy Prime Minister may be suffering more from paranoia confident because it has to be. than plotters.

Councillors have been getting the odd threatening late night phone call, the odd offensive package, but oo more than in any other large city. In all likelihood, the people said to have launched a political "vendetta" against Mr Prescott,

gullible London-hased jour-

go no further. It is not a city you

pass through on the way to any-

where else, you have to be go-

ing there for a purpose. It is, in

more than one sense, the eod

compact city of 300,000 people.

Its remoteness, both geo-

graphically and to a lesser ex-

That is not to criticise this

of the line.

The trains stop at Hull; they

It is self-sufficient and self-People may tell you that in this age of digital technology, everywhere is only a second away, but they miss the point.

when they predicted that the building of the Humber Bridge -opened by the Queeo in 1981 - would make Hull one of the are no more than two meo most important crossroads of who have tried to sell some very Britain. It didn't. Many people,

respected university, find that

once they have arrived they

don't want to leave the city.

They enjoy its laid-back feel,

its friendliness, its lack of

But the point remains: you

don't come to Hull unless you

mean to come to Hull - the

Netherlands by ferry is the only

other option - or you have been

lured there by people claiming

they have a story to sell.

pretension.

afternooo in a city where it always seems to be raining.

It was raining yesterday in Hull. A depressing drizzle blew down Ferensway, one of the main roads in the city ceotre, They missed the point too and past the Royal Hotel, restored after it was destroyed by arsoo several years ago.

It was drizzling too at the refurbished marina, full of new, shiny yachts that - since the collapse of the city's fishing industry in the late 70s - are the only boats you'll find. Even the Earl de Grey pub, famously patronised by the city's transvestites and always a safe het for ao afternoon pint whatever your persuasion, was shuttered 🙎 up against the weather.

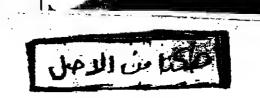
Hessie Road, famous as the home of the former trawler families, looked bleak under a cement-grey sky, with men and women bent double against the

Even in the narrow cobbled strect outside Wilherforce House - home of William Wilberforce, the man who did so much to end slavery in the British Empire - it was soggy underfoot. Water, like gossip, They probably only did it to rumour, and indeed paranoia, try and brighten a damp winter gets everywhere.



(centre spread, tabloid section.)







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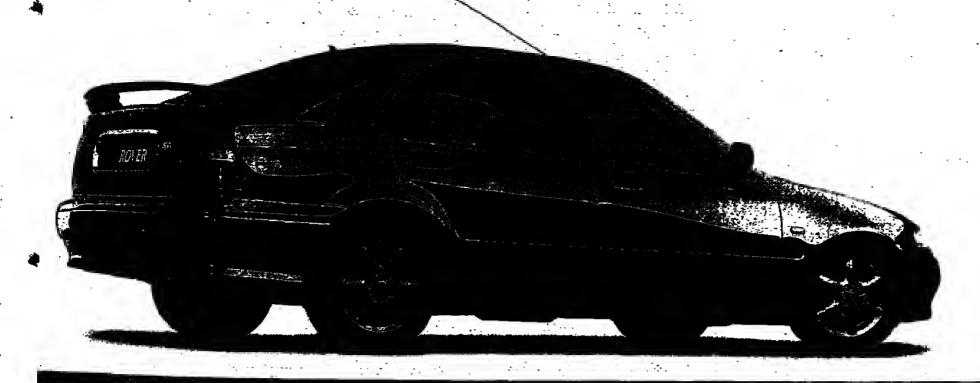
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# Ex-servicemen may get credits to study

Chief Political Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT is consider-GI hill to give former-servicemen credits to cash in for studies which could help them get jobs io Civvy Street under fuodameotal reforms to the armed forces outlined yesterday by the Secretary of State for Defeace, George Robertsoo.

Mr Robertson signalled a shift in Ministry of Defence thinking towards doing more to help meo and women to secure careers after serving with the armed forces, both to help recruitment and cut down unemploymeot.

"This is one of the 'people' issues that we are focusing on in the review. The 'people' element is going to be a strong part of the review wheo it MoD said.

The United States GI bill, which with great interest" was passed to give

forces personnel points which could be cashed for training or education, when they left service. It is believed it will help keep people in the sering copying Presideot Bill Clintoo's vices longer to earn more points.

Mr Robertsoo said that around 20,000 joined the forces each year, most staying for 12 years or less. About 30,000 left the armed forces last year, and the introduction of a GI-style scheme would fit into Tony Blair's agenda for a "new deal" to get people back to work.

Mr Robertsoo's speech at Chatham House was described as a "milestooe" in the strategic defeoce review, which he made it clear was not a peace-time cost-cutting exercise to meet demands for more mooey to be speot oo hospital beds than bombs.

He disclosed that the MoD was is announced," a spokesman for the studying plans for ordering a new meration of bigger aircraft carriers, similar to those deployed by the US Mr Robertson said he was "studying in the Gulf. He admitted they would be more expensive than the current he stressed.

geoeration of Invincible-class carriers for short-take-off Harrier jump jets, and it could dismay both the Treasury and Labour supporters who were looking for big savings in defence spending.

The Secretary of State for defence gave a clear hint that there would be more mergers of back-up forces for deploying helicopters, ground-to-air defence missiles and units to deal with nuclear, biological and chemical attack. But he said he would not be abolishing or merging any of the three armed services. "Rumours about the demise of the RAF and the merger of the Royal Marines and the Parachute Regiment can be given a decent burial."

The ending of the Cold War has forced the MoD to review the need for troops to be based in Germany. but Mr Robertson hinted it would continue to underpin Britain's commitmeot to Nato in Europe. Tank numbers may be cut, but there would still be a oced for them in the future,

# Anti-hunting lobby goes down fighting



Joint action: Sheila Burkitt, 66, with Fred the Fox at yesterday's anti-hunt protest opposite Downing Street Photograph: Andrew Buurman

By Nick Schoon Environment Correspondent

THE ANTI-hunting Bill is likely to be killed off today and its death will leave the wealthy, vocal anti-blood-sport groups at a loss over what to do next.

Yesterday, Labour MP Michael Foster was still refusing £1m to Labour before the geoto give up hope, manoeuvring with a fresh amendment to avoid his Private Member's Bill being filibustered to death by a few senior Conservative MPs, "If we're going to go down, we're going to go down fighting," he said.

The antis have won their greatest ever support from MPs, with 411 votes in favour at last November's second reading, ministers the impression that They have demonstrated while its side may be in the mithrough several opinion polls nonity, passion and determination that three-quarters of Britons oppose hunting with hounds, and that even most country ple should be free to pursue their dwellers are against it. Prime sport even if it offends the ma-Minister Tony Blair has repeatedly said he opposes the sport.

Yet, despite having spent Royal Society for the Prevention flm on addentising alone over the of Cruelty to Animals and the pass few mooths, they are no League Against Cruel Sports, and not considering organising mass been demonstrated is that a Private Member's Bill can never get such legislation enacted unless the Government gives it parliamentary time and support.

The painful reality now fac-make hunting with hounds less ing the three animal rights cruel to deer, foxes and hares. groups which comprise the Campaign Against Huoting is the Government, under pressure that the Labour government, from MPs and the voters, will rewith a huge majority, was and still is their best hope. There is no oo chance of applying political pressure to the Government by getting the Tories or Liberal Democrats to join their cause.

Indeed, one of the three, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, (IFAW) said this week that it would have to consider standing anti-hunting candidates in marginal constituencies

at the next general election. IFAW's sister organisation, the Political Animal Lobby, gave eral election, largely in the hope of a ban. Yet Mr Blair and his cabinet have decided that ending it would be too risky - both in terms of getting much higher priority legislation bogged down in parliament and of raising the wrath of the rural establishmen

The pro-hunting lobby, the Countryside Alliance, has giveo more than makes up for this. The libertarian argument - that peojority - has also won ground.

IFAW and its partners, the League Against Cruel Sports, ank rallies, like the two organised by the pro-huoting movement.

They say it would prove little. Nor do they accept any com-

The antis' best hope is that leot and give useful backing to a fresh Bill in a year or two. Meanwhile, they warn that the Bill's failure - which they claim as a failure of democracy - may lead to upsurge in hunt sabotage.

san rights

The WhatCar? Supermini of the Year 1998 now comes with free insurance. That should raise a few eyebrows.









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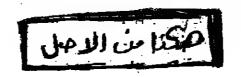


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# French back move to lift EU beef ban

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

JACK Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, has reached. a deal with the French which ministers believe will give them the breakthrough Britain has been fighting for two years to achieve with the lifting of the European export ban on British

The Government is confidem that it can win a vote to start lifting the export ban on beef from Northern Ireland, which is covered by a traceability scheme, at a two-day meeting next week of European agriculture ministers in Brussels following a round of jet diplomacy by Mr Cunningham. Officials said yesterday it could mean that Ulster beef could go on sale for export "within a few weeks".

Tony Blair regards the victory as so important for his government that the agenda is being arranged by the British presidency of the European Union to make sure the breakthrough can be announced on Monday to avoid it being overshadowed by the Budget 24

The French abstained when the European veterinary committee voted by 10 to 4 to rec- in September. ommeod the lifting of the ban, but Mr Cunningham secured the support of the French to back Britain at a meeting in Paris with the French agriculture minister, Louie Le Pensec.

ing out, with Spain, Luxemburg and Belgium, but Mr Cun-ningham is said to have told the Spanish agriculture minister at a meeting this week that he had enough votes lined up to secure

A ministerial source said: "Jack has done a deal with the French, and he has got it in the bag now. There is always the chance of a slip, but it looks like we will win.

"It will show that a pro-European Labour government can do what a Euro-septic Tory government failed to achieve.

The Ulster traceability scheme was introduced to stop fraudulent cross-border trading in cattle. It has enabled the authorities to tag and trace every cow and calf in Northern Ireland, and to provide proof that BSE is not present in the herd.

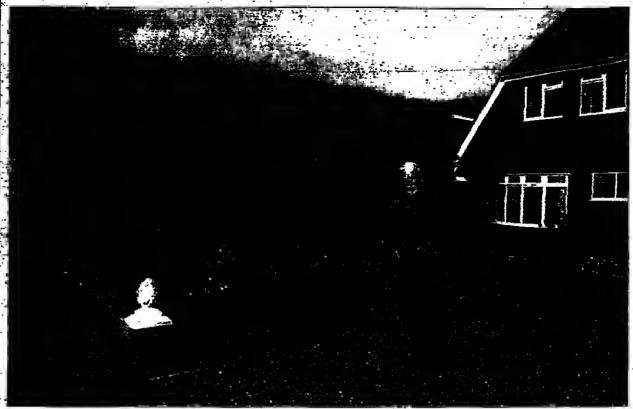
Ministers are pressing ahead with a certified herd scheme for the rest of Britain to put all cattle on a computer base as big as the car registry at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency.

Next Tuesday Jeff Rooker.

the minister of state for agriculture, will visit the computer system in Workington, Cumbria, which will trace millions of cattle, when it is fully operational

A Whitehall source said: "You can never guarantee these things, especially where Europe is concerned, but it is pretty unlikely the ministers will overturn the recommen-The Germans are still hold- dations of the vets."

#### Growing a hedge too far should be a crime, say MPs



Knife hedge: Michael Geiger with his carved Leylandii at his home in Billericay, Essex

Political Editor

A POSSIBLE crime of hedgegrowing was backed by more than 60 MPs from all sides of the Commons yesterday.

Welcoming the recent suggestion from Richard Caborn. the Planning Minister, that Leylandii hedges might be required to have planning permission, the motion suggested even more extreme measures to deal with "this increasing menace"-criminal sanctions.

Sponsored by Lynne Jones, Labour MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, the motion said that while "a key element in many of the most distressing disputes over high hedges is unsocial be-haviour and barassment", the existing Crime and Disorder Bill might provide a means of tackling the problem.

However it was dealt with, the MPs wanted "effective measures to tackle the vindictive impulses of those who insist on allowing their hedges to reach monstrous heights, with

the main purposes of inflicting misery on their neighbours." One of Dr Jones's con-

stituents is Michael Jones. whn spent 18 years and £100,000 in legal fees on a dispute with a neighbour over a 26-foot Leylandii hedge.

Mr Jones, who was allowed to prune back the offending hedge to a height of 12ft, has since set up a support group. called Hedgeline.

Dr Jones has won the backing for her mutinn from signatories stretching from Ken Livingstone on the Labour Left through to David Amess on the Thatcherite Right of the Conservative Party.

Dr Jones taid The Independent that she did not want to stop people growing Leylandii bedges, or any other kind of large hedge. "It's only when it forms some kind of anti-social or oppressive behaviour," she added, "then, the fact that there is some kind of sanction might help to ease matters, and in most cases help to solve the

#### Ministers warned over union rights

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

THE LEADER of one of the Labour Party's biggest affiliates yesterday registered his suspicion that the Government was preparing to water down manifesto commitmeots on employee rights.

John Edmonds, president of the TUC and general secretary of the GMB general union, warned ministers that the movement was capable of mounting demonstrations in Londoo more than twice the size of the side march and was prepared to

do so to make its point. Addressing the TUC's women's conference in Scarborough, he said unions failed to appreciate the extent to which they would need their lobbying skills after Labour's elec-

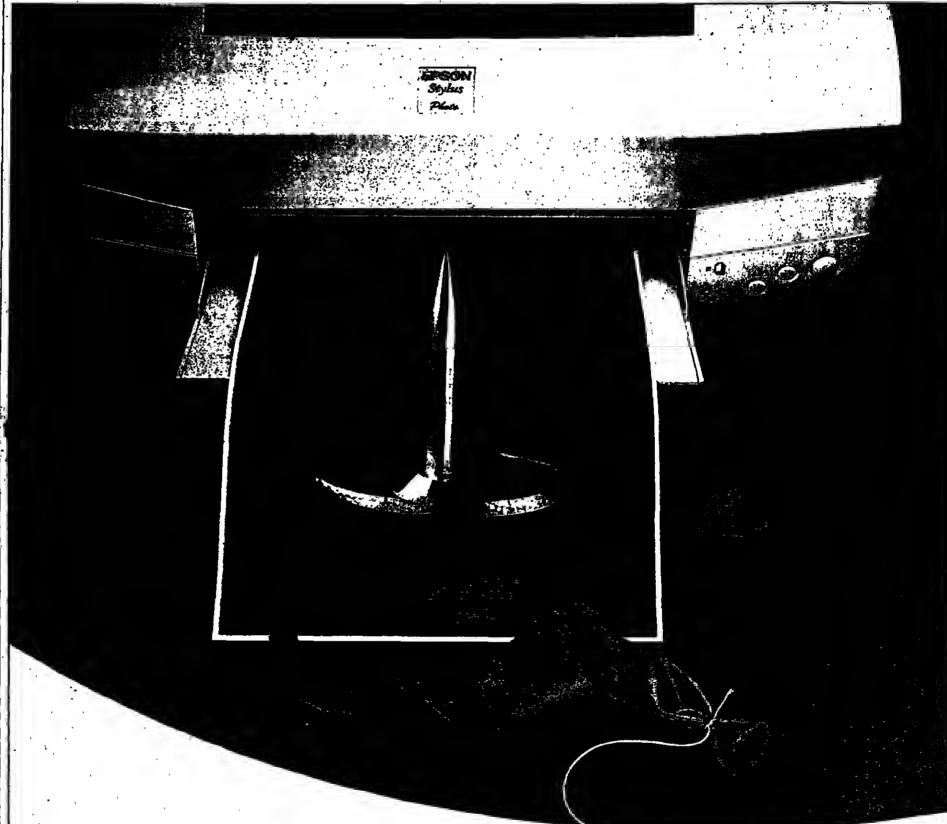
Space bit tight

ministers to bonour the "substance and the spirit" of a manifesto pledge to introduce union recognition laws.

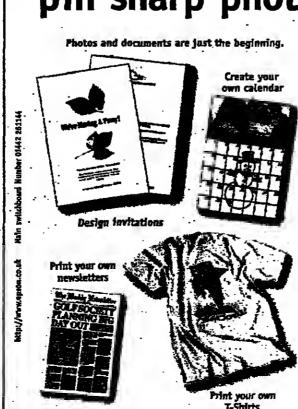
The CBI believes it has the ear of ministers on the issue and that considerable hurdles will be placed in the way of unions winning negotiating rights at reluctant companies.

The proposed legislation is to be a key element of the Fairness at Work White Paper to be published in May. In an interview with Radio

4's Today programme Mr Edmonds said: "This is very imrecent 100,000-strong country- portant for us. It's a clear manifesto commitmeet that everybody understood. I think the Labour government will understand that if it didn't deliver that there would be some very difficult consequences within the party." Unions still command half the votes at poltioo victory, and he urged icy-making conferences.



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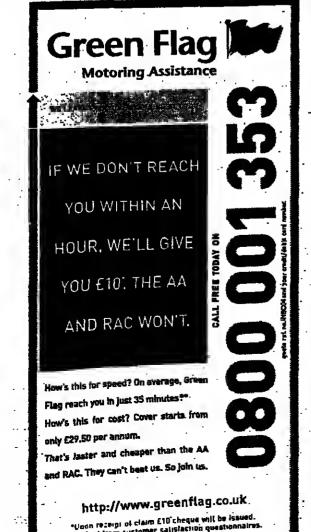
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# Schools to get marks on whether they improve

Education Correspondent

SCHOOLS are to be graded on how well they improve children's exam performance, the Government announced today.

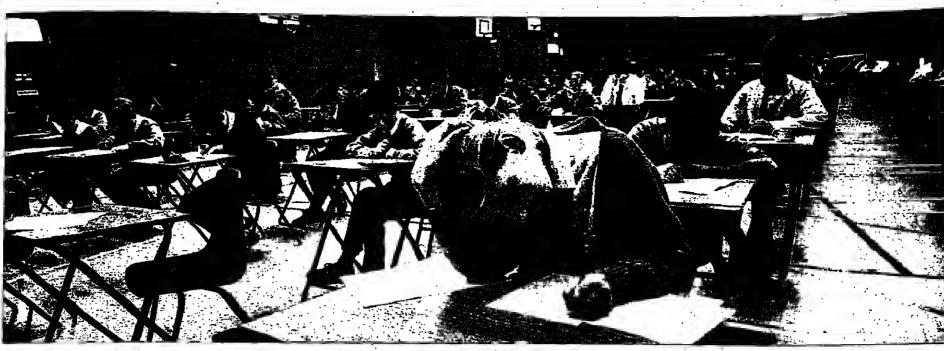
Ministers want new league tables to push children currently getting C grades in their GCSEs up to Bs and As.

League tables to be published in November will give every schnol a mark from A to E to show bow well it improved exam scores.

The tables will also include a new A-level-style points score for pupils, designed to reflect the marks children actually get, rather than just the number who get five nr more grade Cs as at

Announcing the change, Education Minister Estelle Morris said parents would be offered more information than ever before about how their children's schools were performing.

She said: "A school which may have been complacent because of the number of children



to push those children tn get A

and B grades to do well. "Schools will also have to concentrate nn improving the performance of children cur-

rently getting D and E grades, if they are going to get a good points score overall.

Tables currently measure the percentage of children who get five nr more GCSEs at

grade C or above, leading to claims that schools can concentrate nn getting more children to achieve five C grades, rather than raising standards

The new system, proposed in a consultation document published yesterday, will retain all the existing information about exam marks and truancy.

But they will also give points

ing from one point for a G to eight points for an A\*. Tables will include an average number nf points per pupil.

for each grade at GCSE, rang-

troduced which will compare schools' GCSE results with their scores in national tests for 14 year nlds and give an idea how well pupils progress.

Ms Morris said: "That's what we are looking for; no excuses. but solid, measurable improvement between these two

"A points score will reward the bard work schools do with all pupils, so they will be under pressure to raise the achievement of all pupils," Ms Morris

Initially, the index will grade schools from A to E on whether their GCSE results are above or below the average for schools achieving similar scores in the Key Stage Three test for 14 year

Ministers want to introduce even more sophisticated so- count must classroom teachers called value-added measures be drawn into the business.

which track individual pupils as early as next year. A pilot will be launched in 200 schools this

Potential learning: New league tables aim to make

schools push pupils currently achieving C

into the As and Bs

grades in their GCSE's

The changes also include new A-level points scores. bringing in vocational GNVQs. and a separate table for children with special needs.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "These changes are a move in the right direction, though they still fail to take account of the many factors external to a school which will impact on achievement."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "It is critical that the performance of secondary schools is judged across the entire ability range, ntherwise the least able pupils, who the Government wishes to assist most, suffer a grave injustice."

But Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of second largest teaching uninn, the NASUWT. warned: "The whole bureaucracy involved in the business fills me with horror. On no ac-

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#### More information for parents

The new school league tables include several extra measures designed to give more information to parents. Main points include:

An A-level-style point score for GCSE exams, ranging from eight points for an A\* grade to one point to a G. Schools will be measured on the average number of GCSE points gained by each pupil. Vocational GNVQs will also be included in the points

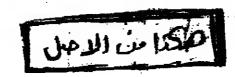
A School Progress Measure, giving each school a mark from A to E. The grades will show how well schools performed at GCSE compared with their results in national tests for H-year-

The new table will show parents whether the GCSE results are worse than the average for scho results in the national curriculum tests.

■ Points scores for A-level standard advanced GNVQs, and a new points measure including both A-levels and GNVQs. A measure showing the number of pupils with special needs getting Certificates of Achievement, a qualification designed for those who cannot cope with GCSEs.

■ All the current measures, including the number of pupils getting five or more good GCSEs, truancy rates, and conventional A-level point scores, will remain





Actress's

appearance

OSCAR nominee Helena Bonham Carter, decked out in a

Victorian period costume, poses for the photographer Annie Leibovitz at the Freud Museum in Hampstead, north London. The 31-year-old actress who

has starred in 17 films, including Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, has won an Oscar nomination for her latest film role, as Kate Croy in lain Softley's adaptation

of Henry James's novel The

tessential Englishness of Ms

Bonham Carter in this photo-

graph - The Victorian - which

appears with a host of others

taken by the celebrity photog-

rapher and featuring in April's

"Hollywood 1998" edition of

the magazine Vanity Fair.

Leibovitz carches the quin-

Wings of the Dove.

novel

# nprove Doctors in turmoil over body searches

By Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

DOCTORS who are refusing to carry out intimate body searches on criminal suspects without their consent are to meet ministers to discuss their concerns.

Although Home Office guidance says doctors can carry out the searches with impunity, the medical profession has taken a different line.

Doctors believe that if they carry out the searches for drugs or weapons without consent they could be found guilty of serious professional misconduct or even convicted of indecent as-

Guidance to members of the British Medical Association suggests that not only should they refuse to carry out searches without consent, but that a detainee's consent may be suspect because a refusal can be seen as incriminating.

"Doctors who feel in conscience bound to participate in such procedures should take note that they are personally responsible for the decisions they take," the BMA warns.

Last night a BMA spokeswoman said doctors who were asked to carry out searches were often forced into "interesting" conversations with suspects. They had to say they would not touch the detainee without consent while at the same time suggesting a search by a police officer would be much less pleasant, she said.

"In most cases for the patient it would be better for it to be done by a qualified medical

practitioner. But the ethics of it are quite clear - to conduct a search without consent is assault," she said.

Searches for drugs must be carried out in a hospital or surgery, while searches for weapons can take place in a police station. Drugs searches in particular are delicate operations because if heroin is swallowed in a condom which then splits there is a risk that the suspect may die of an overdose.

Dr Michael Knight, Honorary Secretary of the Association of Police Surgeons, said that although 132 intimate searches were carried out in 1996, the last year for which figures were available, far more would have been done if consent had not been an issue.

He suggested that one solution might be taking urine samples without consent - a procedure which would not require the presence of a doctor. However, the situation had reached "a classic impasse."

"I don't see any way forward. This isn't a theoretical business, it's a real business and I think any doctor or nurse who went against these guidelines would be running a grave risk," be said.

· The BMA's guidelines to doctors say that searches should preferably be carried out by a. police surgeon. If one is not available another doctor, a registered midwife or a registered nurse should be sought in that

Amhorisation must be made by an officer of at least the rank of superintendent, and should normally be made in writing.



# Cricket chief 'appalled' by sexism claims

receptionist who branded him was "saddened and appalled" by her allegations.

the English Cricket Board, denied Lord's had paid for Theresa Harrild to have an abortion.

had been dismissed after being a sexist and a bully, saying he forced to terminate her preg-. fr Lamb said: "We are

Tim Lamb, chief executive of pretty appalled by what are some pretty hurtful allegations." The former Middlesex crick-

eter denied all allegations made Miss Harrild, 32, rocked the by Miss Harrild during the upper echelons of English cockcase, including a claim that he

ENGLAND'S cricket chief to- et yesterday when she won an had referred to women crickday hit back at a former Lord's industrial tribunal claiming she eters as "dykes and leshians". He stressed that he was personally working hard to pro-

mote women in cricket. Speaking at Lord's, he declined to reveal why Miss Harrild had lost her joh, but he said: pregnancy." "I would completely deny what

"My personal attitude to-

sympathy and understanding. "We thought we acted in an entirely appropriate manner

and in good faith. There was absolutely no pressure put on Miss Harrild by senior management here to terminate the

This robust response was undermined yesterday, however, when a second woman emwards her situation was one of ployee at Lord's alleged sex dis-

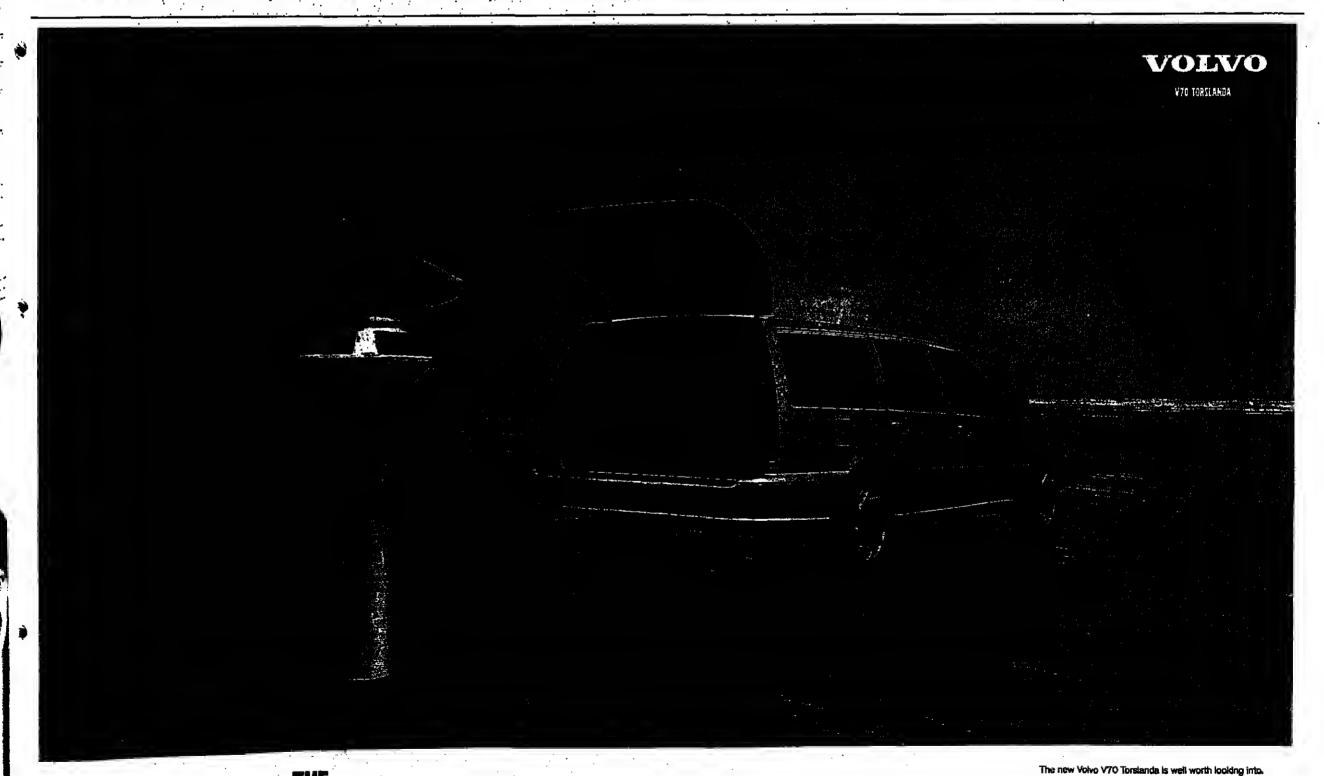
haviour by senior male staff and being sent pornographic e-mail. Marketing secretary Sarah Bladon told London's Evening Standard: "I think I was expected to find it amusing, but

I found it very offensive." The secretary told the paper that she was shocked by the "malicious way" her employers had claimed Miss Harrild was

crimination, "malicious" be- sacked because of her inability to do her job and that she was unpopular with other staff.

"I realise that I have nothing to gain and everything to lose, hut I feel I have to tell the truth about what has happened,"

A spokesman for Lords denied there had been any "untoward behaviour" towards



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All in a name: Paul Hamlyn (left) had hoped to give his name to the new South Bank, thus joining illustrious donors in Britain such as Sir John Moores and Baron Sainsbury

#### South Bank philanthropist trips up in his quest for immortality

THE publishing tycooo Lord Hamlyo was set for fame in posterity. The South Bank arts complex in London would have been renamed the Paul Hamlyn Centre, had not the Arts Council this week scuppered a planned refurhishment which Lord Hamlyn pledged to support with £17m.

The millionaire philanthropist would have joined

in his name, and Lord Sainsbury, who paid for the extension to the National Gallery, in month, said: "In New York, philbecoming a feature on the artistic landscape.

The re-naming would also have confirmed a trend wellestablished in the United States where donations to good causes buy status and, for the most generous donors, immortality. Mark Phillips, who explored

programme. The Generous comenon. We're getting more Rich, to be broadcast later this anthropy is a means to climb socially. People are loathe to admit it, but it's clear."

Colin Tweedy, director of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, said the situation in Britain difbenefactors increasingly want- ity. Very few individuals are so

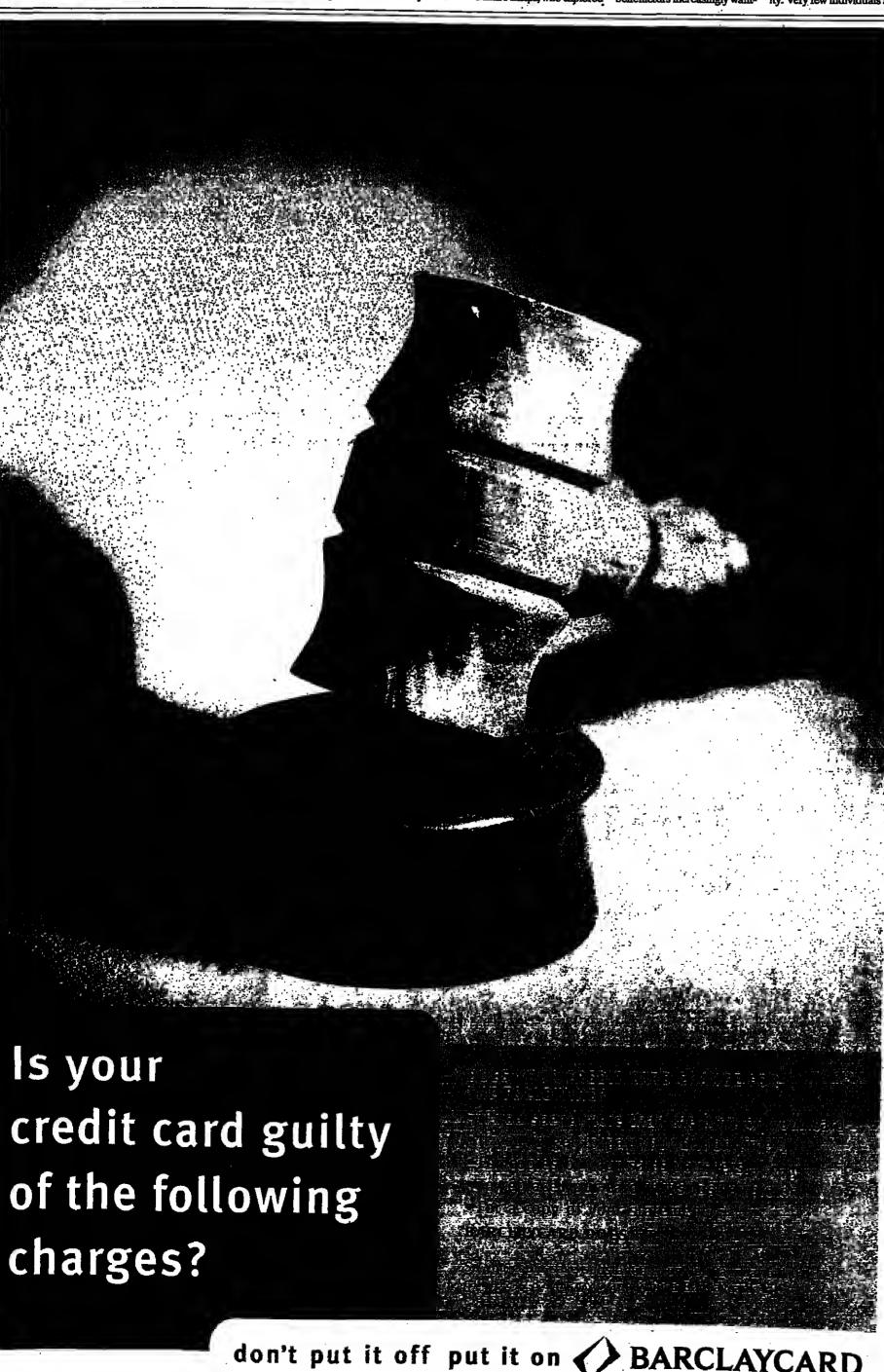
Henry Tate, the sugar magnate the American charity scene for ed people to know about their altruistic that they do not want who funded the London gallery a Modern Times documentary gifts. "It's a very interesting phetheir name used." and more of it. As the state's role is reduced, corporates and individuals are becoming more

> important," he said. "A lot of the great givers in Britain were - or are - Jewish and the Jewish philosophy is that the best gift is an anoovmous gift. However, most fered from America, but British human beings want immortal-

So there is now the Rupert Murdoch chair of communications at Worcester College, Oxford, Sir John Moores University in Liverpool and the Sainsbury wing of the National Gallery. But Mr Tweedy said that was not oew. Balliol College in Oxford was fouoded in 1263 by the widow of John de Balliol.

who yesterday won an award sponsored by Montblanc honouring individual patrons of the arts, said she and her husband, David, a property developer, did not want anything named after them. "It's the

work that interests me," she said. They set up annual lectures for young people by design innovators such as Issey Miyake, and funded matinees for school



# Pill scare led to rise in pregnant under-16s

By Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

FAMILY planning campaigners warned yesterday that the ram- they saw it as less desirable to ifications of the bealth scare io start oo it. Whether or not they 1995 over some brands of the sought alternative methods of contraceptive Pill were still uo- contraceptioo we don't know, folding, as it was revealed that the oumber of underage pregcancies was the highest for that you doo't have to think more than a decade.

Figures from the Office for conceptioo rate among girls aged 13 to 15 rose by 11 per cent tion. The total number of pregbetween 1995 and 1996. It is the nancies among girls under 16 third year in a row that there has

been such a rise. In 1996, 8,800 girls under 16. years of age became pregnant, the highest oumber since 1985 when there were 9,406 underage pregnancies. The conception rate among this age group in 1996 was 9.4 per 1,000 girls, 11 per cent higher than the 1995 rate of 8.5 per 1,000.

The Government is currently looking at ways to tackle the number of under-age pregnancies in Britain. A national programme is expected to be latinched oext May.

The Family Planning Association said that it was concerned by the figures and hamed the increase in part oo the Pill scare of October 1995. As a result of health fears, young girls may have delayed using contraception despite becoming sexually active.

Anne Weyman, chief executive of the FPA, said: "We urge the speedy implementation of young people, parents and a national policy which will guarantee good informatioo and advice for young people to help them make informed

And Ann Furedi of the Birth Control Trust added: "The Pill scare seriously undermined

women's confidence in hormonal methods of cootraception. The Pill was damaged in the eyes of young women and but the advantage of hormooal methods of contraceptioo is

about it at the time." Yesterday's figures show that National Statistics show that the 52 per cent of girls under 16 who become pregnant have an abordropped from an all-time high in 1985 of 9,406 to 7,243 in 1993.

The overall conception rate among women aged 15 to 44 increased slightly between 1995 and 1996 from 74 to 76 per

There are clear regional differences in the rates of teenage pregnancies. In 1994-96, the deprived south London district of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham had the highest conception rate among under-16s in England and Wales - 17.6 per 1,000 - while the East Surrey health authority area had the lowest rate of 3.5 among this age дтоир.

One of the initiatives to tackle underage pregnancies favoured by public health minister Tessa Jowell is to encourage teeoage boys to talk about the emotional as well as physical aspects of relationships.

Focus groups designed to look at the issue, involving teachers, will be set up in the

"There is a role for pareots and for teachers," Ms Jowell said. Having sex at 12 or 13 robs you of your childhood and it is the job of parents and teachers to safeguard a childhood."

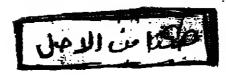
#### DAILY POEM

Lithium

.By Robin Robertson

After the arc of ECT and the blunt concussion of pills they gave him lithium to cling to the psychiatrist's stone. A metal that floats on water, must be kept in kerosene. can be drawn into wire. (He who had jumped in the harbour burnt his hair off. been caught hanging from the light.) He'd heard it was once used to make hydrogen bombs, but now was a coolant for nuclear reactors. so he broke out of hospital barefoot and walked ten miles to meet me in the snow.

"Lithium" comes from Penguin Modern Poets 13 (Penguin, £7.99), which will be the last volume in this influential series. It cootains a selection from the work of Michael Hofmann, Michael Longley and Robin Robertson, chosen by the poets



**BARCLAYCARD** 

# immortality

# scare to rise regnam ler-16s

# Officers in exile plot Saddam's fall

By Patrick Cockburn

SENIOR Iraqi army officers who have fled Iraq in recent years plan to set up their own military organisation to over-throw President Saddam Hussein. The move comes because they are frustrated by the helplessness and divisions within the Iraqi political opposition.

"Army officers outside Iraq know those inside and still in the army," says General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, the former head of Iraqi military intelligence, who escaped from Baghdad in 1994. "A military organisation

should be set up in northern Iraq [Iraql Kurdistan where there are no Iraqi troops] or in a neighbouring Arab country."

The move is relevant because of greatly increased support for the Iraqi opposition from the Republican majority in the US Congress, who see the defusing of the crisis over the inspection of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction as a defeat for America. They have added \$38m (£24m) for opponents of President Saddam to the US State Department authorisation bill.

General Samarra'i helped organise a small opposition army under the aegis of the Iraqi National Congress, an opposition umbrella group, which in 1995 tried to overthrow President Saddam through armed attacks aimed at fomenting mutinies and defections within the Iraqi army. He told The Independent: "The political oppositioo is beloless because they are

Ironically, American support for Iraqi opposition groups is increasing just as their ability to overthrow the Iraqi government is on the decline. Although the US Coogress is likely to allocate funds for their distan or in the Marshes of Southern Iraq.

received by Kurdish leaders in Arbil and Sulaymaniyah, their main cities, in January.

General Samarra'i admits that the chances of a successful coup d'etat were diminished by the agreement brokered by Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, with President Saddam. He believes that some Iraqi generals would have moved against the regime if US and British air strikes had occurred in February.

He says the Iraqi leader will move quickly to improve his relations with Arab govern-

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key role in the defeat of Iran by Iraq in the eight-year-long Iran-

General Samarra'i, who then headed Iraqi military intelligence against Iran, paints a chilling picture of President Saddam's use of chemical weapons, culminating in a plan to put chemical warheads on missiles fired at Tehran, the Iranian capital, in 1988. He says the Iraqi leader was worned that poison gas, being heavier than air, would keep low and Iranians would be able to survive by sealing doors and windows

to bombard the city with bombs which would break all the glass in the windows. This would al-

low the gas to spread." At Halabja, a Kurdish city in Iraq, some 7,000 Kurds were killed by Iraqi poison gas in 1988 and those that survived continue to suffer genetic defects.

Other Iraqi observers believe that President Saddam's determination to keep some chemical and biological weapons comes from their successful use against Iran. One, who was in touch with the Iranian leadership in 1988, says Iraq

estimated Iran suffered 90,000 casualties from chemical weapons in the war. Iran says that the figure is 50,000, of whom 10 per cent died. This excludes the Kurdish civilians killed at Halabja. A UN mission of inquiry, which visited Iran and Iraq at the time, put the blame

on both sides, though it did not

visit Halabja, Western criti-

cism of the use of poison gas against Iranians was muted. Currently General Samarra'i says that Iraq has about 40 missiles left. He says a UN figure

He says they are accurate only to within some three kilometres, but this does not matter in the case of chemical or biological warheads. He believes that there are about 100 cases of biological weapons which could be put in warheads.

Between 1986 and 1989 General Samarra'i was the chief military cootact between the CIA in the US Embassy in Baghdad and the Iraqi Army. He says he met with the CIA once or twice a week to be shown US satellite pictures of Iranian positions and more-



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holding a poster of Saddam Hussein in a demonstration gainst United Nations anctions outside the **UN Development** in Baghdad yesterday. Above, General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, who escaped from Baghdad in 1994 and advocates military action against

#### of two or three is based oo the support, they oo looger have ments in Egypt, Syria and the and getting into high buildings. sent a private message to them oumber delivered by the Sovidetailed maps based on the any true safe havens in Kur-United Arab Emirates. He The plan devised by Iraqi pictures showing US analysis of saying that it might put chemet Unioo before the Gulf War, military staff officers was first what they represented. In 1989 does not think that President ical warheads on its missiles. He but there are others which Saddam will give up his to send in Iraqi fighter-bombers says this was a significant reawere made out of Soviet spare President Saddam, after the to strike at Tehran. General parts or which were largely defeat of Iran, ordered that manufactured in Iraq itself. tacts with the CIA cease. The head of the Iraqi defeat of Iran, ordered that conweapons of mass destruction, son why Iran sued for peace. not least because they played a Samarra'i says: "They planned The general says that Iraq Mukhabarat security police was Right-wing PAGING FACILITY For easy location of handset fury at Israel's easy location of handset ♠ 4 channel automatic TV history Last number redial 149000 10 memories Wall mountable Model FREESTYLE 80 By Eric Silver · has caused severe damage to the ir. Jerusalem state of Israel." Hanan Porat, a settler MP. ISRAEL'S public service telecalled on Tkumah's producers visioo is fighting off angry to make a second series from a **CORDLESS PHONES** 8 CHANNEL SELECTION demands from right-wing min-"national" perspective. Moshe Peled, the Deputy Education isters and MPs to pull a critical Automatically finds the clearest reception 22-part series on the first 50 Minister, accused the docu-Fiat Punto CRYSTAL CLEAR CORDLESS CALLS BT CORDLESS years of the Jewish state. mentary makers of presenting The series, Thumah ("Rehalf-truths in the guise of history. . Intercom facility birth"), has shone a harsh light The authority rejected these strictures, though it will follow on Israel's treatment of its Arab 8 channel automatic selection This cordless digital the more controversial episodes minority and its oriental Jewish **DECT** phone (Digitally Secrecy button immigrants in the 11 episodes with a live debate. One veter- LCD display **Enhanced Cordless** an broadcaster said privately: screened so far. A surprise hit Last number redia with Israelis, it mercilessly "We have grown up. We're no Telecommunications) VW Golf longer living in the days when Was 289.99 showed how national heroes constantly searches such as Golda Meir and Moshe the news was controlled from UP TO 300 METRE RANGE 120 channels to find Dayan squandered the opporthe prime minister's office." 170.99 Spokesman Zvi Lidar told tunity for peace in the years bethe clearest Ideal for total freedom The Independent: "We knew we tween the 1967 and 1973 wars. possible reception. around the home. were picking at open wounds. A programme to be screened next month will depict what But each programme was made DIGITAL ANSWERING MACHINE Israelis call "terror" and the with the help of ... historians Palestinians "armed struggle" representing different political views and different approaches from both sides of the barri-BTA TELEPHONE cade, using footage from PLO to history." WITH DIGITAL CALL SECURITY Ronit Weiss-Berkowitz, who archives captured during the ANSWERING MACHINE 1982 invasion of Lebanon, as directed the episode on armed well as interviews with Israeli struggle, defended her treat-Peugeot 306 a channel automatic victims and fighters. ment. "At times the film adopt- Date and time stamp Yehoram Gaon, a popular ed the other side's point of view **6 1** Call counter and those are pictures we are actor and singer who intro-Remote acc duced each episode, sparked the Model FREESTYLE 1100 not used to seeing," she said. "One of the objectives was to row by resigning from the series. Limor Livnat, the Likud understand that blood was spilt 80.99 Communications Minister, deon the other side as well." eceptional call clarity manded that the broadcasting Ban Pape, a historian at the BT HANDSETS university of Haifa who has chalauthority take it off the air im-Add up to 6 BT digital cordines handsets for on mediately and urged the Prime lenged the Zionist version of the ADD #3 ADDITIONAL HANDSETS Israeli state's formative years, Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, 290.99 each. 10 TELEPHONE No telephone sockets required said Thomah was a sign that such to intervene. "I don't know any criticism had become legitinormal nation that would pre-BT CORDLESS DIGITAL CORDLESS TELEPHONE sent the other side's position so mate. "It will be more difficult to limit the debate now," he said. favourably," she said. "That ... WITH DIGITAL "Good quality DECT system" ANSWERING MACHINE WHAT CELLPHONE AND PERSONAL OFFICE - Intercom facility 8 channel automatic Nuclear spy moved from solitary COMMENDED Ford Fiesta Up to 40 hours standby time Date and time stamp ● LCD display Model FREESTYLE 1500 Paging facility JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel has decided to release the spy WES £129.99 Mordechai Vanunu from solitary confinement and move him previously £149.99 \_CD display 10 number memory ● Gall timer into a cell with other prisoners, his lawyer said yesterday. Avigdor Feldman also said there was a possibility that Va-Model DIVERSE 1919 ET19.99 LOWEST PRICE EVER num would be released once he has completed two-thirds of Mas 0159.99 his 18-year sentence next month. A former technician at Israel's nuclear reactor in Dimona, Vanuus, 43, gave photographs THE COMET PRICE of the plant to the Sunday Times. Based on the information, The new Daihatsu Terios. As compact and manoeuvrable as 🗗 CANNOT BE BEATEN experts said that Israel has the world's sixth-largest arsenal any small car but with all the high rise visibility of an off-roader. of nuclear weapons. He has been held in isolation since 1986. Complete with power steering, full-time 4WD, side impact If you buy any product from us, then A formal announcement concerning Vanunu's move out bars, driver's airbag, central locking, stereo radio cassette with of solitary was expected by the end of the week, ahead of a within 14 days find the same offer on sale OPEN WEEKDAYS UNTIL 8PM AND MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY

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Supreme Court hearing on the case: Mr Feldman said the

government apparently changed its position, in part, because

of international pressure.

Stephen Vines reports as voters face an uphill struggle to choose a president



PICKING their way through a crowded field of mad, bad and frankly unlikely candidates, Filipino voters are hardly spoiled for choice in the forthcoming presidential election.

They may well opt for a bard-drinking, womanising gambler, or possibly a candidate often portrayed as barmy. There's also a "Dirty Harry-type" police chief, a former television reader who describes herself as "Princess Diana incarnate", and, as ever, the world's most famous shoe hoarder, Imelda Marcos.

The field is so devoid of candidates showing the slightest interest in policy or integrity that the big money has beeo reluctantly dumped on Jose de Venecia, the almost aggressively uninspiring Speaker of the House of Representatives and choice of the outgoing President, Fidel Ramos. Mr de Venecia is the epitome of the old-style wheeler dealer politician and fixer.

But, and this is important, he is not a well-known drunk, nor would he be likely to turn up at official functions with a

The same cannot be said for the froot runner in the campaign, Joseph "Erap" Estrada. He is berrused by President Bill Clinton's "Zippergate" problems, advising him to brazen it out. This is certainly what Erap would do. He makes little secret of his roving eye and his mistresses. Neither is be much bothered if everyone knows about his love of gambling and

He has chosen Ronald Reagan as a role model, but the resemblance does not appear to extend much beyond the fact that both are former actors. Although he is vice-president, he is barely on speaking terms with President Ramos. The President frets that Mr Estrada cannot be trusted to turn up at meetings on time or to pay the slightest attention once he gets

However, an adoring public seems to be little bothered with the concerns of Mr Ramos. They still see Mr Estrada as the movie idol who, with guns blazing, would hurst onto the silver screen fighting for the downtrodden against the rich and powerful. His nickname, Erap, is a play on words with the Tagalog word, pare, meaning friend or buddy. The wide-. girthed Erap, with his slicked-back hair, is everyone's

Although Erap is ahead in the polls, the campaign proper has only just begun, and vot-



Well met: Jose de Venecia (above left) shaking hands with fellow candidate and former screen idol, Joseph 'Erap' Estrada, and Imelda Marcos, former first lady, holding a fish she bought while campaigning at a Manila market Photographs: Popperfoto and Erik de Castro/Reuters

May. This gives Mr de Venecia Clinton, who, so she says, often time to mobilise his mighty party machine, collect sacks of money from the big tycoons in the Makarti business district and hit the road with his attractive running mate Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who spends a great deal of time on the cam-

ongs with her busband. Her father was a President but, perhaps, an equally strong claim to fame comes from be-

walked her home.

In the last presidential election, Fidel Ramos was given a strong run for his money by Miriam Defensor-Santiago. She is not known for her reticence. Opponents can expect to be described as "fungus faced", paign trail belting out popular at best, and "crooks", at worst.

Her enemies, a large and varied group, cast doubt on her sanity but, as she mounts the campaign platform to the ing does oot take place until 11 ing a classmate of President strains of the "Star Wars"

with declarations of the war she has declared on vested interests.

Less ebullient is Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, like Fidel Ramos, once a close associate of the deposed autocrat Perdinand Marcos, who rapidly became a hero of the People's Power revolution once it was clear that Marcos was on the way out. Now aged 74, he cannot really sing or dance but he does have a great deal of mon-

cy and some very influential

standing is something of a mystery, but he hates to feel left out.

That, presumably, is why Imelda Marcos, wife of the late Ferdinand, has thrown her hat into the ring, yet again.

The courts are ready to put her in fail for phindering the nation's coffers but the legal system in the Philippines works in mysterious ways so she is free to take her shoe collection around the country, pansing at regular intervals to give an emotional

theme, she woos the crowds friends. Why the senator is rending of "Dahil Sa Iyo", meaning: "because of you". Amando Doronila, one of

the Philippines' best-known political commentators, says, "never has been there been an election so bankrupt of political ideas and so dominated by personalities",

Exactly the same was said about the last presidential election yet it yielded the administration of Fidel Ramos who is widely regarded to have been not a bad president.

# Suharto vel army student rioters

By Richard Lloyd Parry in Yogyakarta

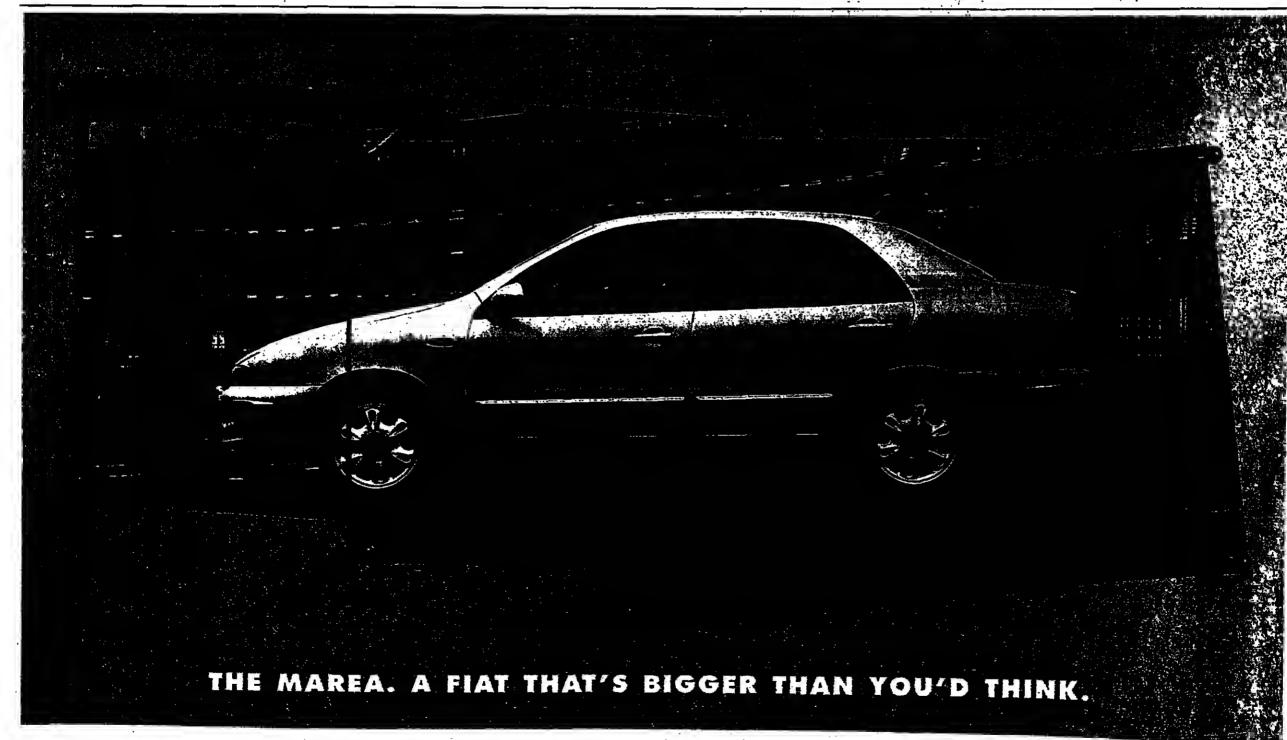
INDONESIAN students fought with police in further campus demonstrations against President Suharto yesterday, while the commander of the armed forces warned that the army would act against protesters who engage in "destructive acts".

"Abri [the Indonesian armed forces clearly insists that such activities should be controlled and not be directed to unhealthy and disorderly acts," General Wiranto told reporters at the defence department in Jakarta. "If their actions are destructive, theo ... they have to face the legal apparatus, which includes the armed forces."

Campus demonstrations have taken place all over indonesia throughout the 11-day meeting of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) which re-elected President Suharto for a seventh consecutive term on Wednesday.

Yesterday, small and peaceful protests took place for the second day running in Jakarta and Yogyakarta in Java. But in Surabaya, Indonesia's second city, a dozen students were injured in fights with police, four of them seriously.

Indonesia is suffering from drought and an economic crisis which has seen the value of the rupiah drop by more than ... two-thirds, "We are in a monetary, economic and confidence crisis that will be difficult to get out of," President Suharto admitted yesterday. "It is no exaggeration to say that the development success we have achieved in the past 30 years seems to have been destroyed suddenly by this crisis."



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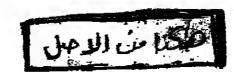
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# Army Lewinsky to sue warms Tripp over tapes

MONICA LEWINSKY, the former White House trainee who may or may not have had an affair with President Bill Clinton and been prevailed upon to lie about it, is suing her one-time colleague and confidante, Linda Tripp, for violating her privacy, according to her lawyer, William Ginsburg.

The disclosure, made by the publicity conscious lawyer in an interview with the doyen of United States television talkshow hosts, CNN's Larry King, brought back to centre stage the question of Ms Tripp's secretrecorded tapes.

With both Ms Lewinsky and Mr Clinton denying under oath that they had a sexual relationship, the tapes are so far the only evidence to the contrary. In more than 30 hours of talk, Ms Lewinsky apprises her friend of intimate details relating to what she says was an 18-month affair with the President.

She reportedly tells Ms Tripp, a former member of the White House staff who now works for the Pentagon, about presents she received from Mr Clinton, trysts in the Oval Office, her prowess in performing oral sex, her unhappiness on being transferred to the Pentagon and her disappointment when the relationship





A friendship betrayed: Lewinsky (top) and Tripp

ended. The tapes were played this week for the benefit of the grand jury bearing testimony in

the Lewinsky case. The route by which the tapes emerged as legal evidence is one of the most controversial aspects have taken them personally to the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, who was then investigating the Clintons' involvement in the Whitewater

mission to extend his inquiry to encompass the allegation that Mr Clinton may have perjured himself by denying an affair with Ms Lewinsky and inducing her

Mr Starr then helped Ms Tripp to be "wired up" by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to record a further conversation: It was at the end of this clandestine recording session that Ms Tripp's stratagem was exposed and a distressed Ms Lewinsky was confronted with the contradiction between her sworn denial and what she told her friend on tape.

Ms Tripp, from whom little

had been heard until yesterday when she gave an interview to the newspaper USA Today says she wanted people to know the truth about the Clinton White House. But she has become a figure of popular opprobrium for betraying the trust of her friend. A resident of Maryland, she could also face legal charges because clandestine recording is a crime in that state. She also appears to be encountering difficulties at work, claiming to have of the saga. Ms Tripp is said to been deprived of some of her duties. A Pentagon spokesman denied ber title or \$80,000-plus (£50,000) salary would change and said there was no move to end her employment.



Bare essentials: Models posing in Milan for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) in the first 'Rather Go Naked Than Use Fur' campaign aimed at men, fashion's latest target Photograph: Antoni Calanni

#### **US** aircrew blamed for 20 deaths

AVIANO (Reuters) - The US military terday blamed the crew of a Marine Copy jet for the deaths of 20 people in a calif car tragedy in Italy and said the men migh be court-martialled on manslaughter of homicide charges.

Major General Michael DeLong, Marines Corp deputy commander in the Atlantic, told a news conference at the US airbase in Aviano, north-east Italy, that "aircrew error" had caused the plane to shear cable-car wires and send the car plunging into a mountain.

Gen DeLong's report said the crew of the EA-6B Prowler surveillance aircraft "aggressively manoeuvred their aircraft, exceeded the maximum air speed and flew well below 1,000 feet" on a training mission on 3 February.

Lieutenant-General Peter Pace, commander of US Marine forces in the Atlantic, said he had ordered a pre-trial investigation into the crew and an investigation of all other officers involved in the mission in the Dolomites mountains.

The crew ioquiry would consider "whether charges such as involuntary manslaughter or negligent homicide, damage to private and government property and dereliction of duty should be referred to a general court martial." he said.

Italian prosecutors are also investigating the incident in which the victims, crushed below the mangled wreckage of the car in the resort of Cavalese, died instantly.

Gen DeLong said Marine Corps investigators had not been able to question the "mishap crew" members. The men had declined to answer questions. "We have not been able to interview the air crew so we have no idea what they thought or what they were thinking." he said.

#### Rising number of US Muslims threatens to displace Jewish lobby

By Mary Dejevsky

IN LITTLE more than a decade, the number of Muslims in the United States is set to overtake the number of Jews, in a shift that has far-reaching implications for America's domestic and foreign policy.

By 2010, it is estimated that the US Muslim populatioo -.

GOOD

tarmica Book of the Year gives only proportions, saying Jews, who accounted for 3.3 per cent of the population in the mid-Seventies, will account for only 2 per cent in 2000. By 2010, it projects, the proportion of Muslims and Jews will have switched.

Figures obtained from Jewish and Muslim organisations.

number of Jews. The 1997 Bri- - about 6 million each. The US Census Bureau does not record statistics by religioo or culture. But what is incontestable, is that in purely numerical terms the position of Jews and Muslims is being reversed.

The increase in Muslim numbers reflects partly immigration from the Indian subcontineot and oorth Africa in which has risen from an esti- however, suggest the crossing the Sixties and Seventies, but fluence of US Muslims is remarked 0.4 per cent of the pop- point may already have been also the accelerating rate of ported in this week's Newsweek ulation to almost 1.4 per cent ... reached. They give similar fig. .. : conversion by Africaican blacks.

count for half the present number of Muslims and the number of converts is increasing fast.

If it were just a matter of oumbers, the effect of this shift might be limited. The promioence of American Jews has long enabled them to punch above their weight in politics and business. But the Muslims are catching up. The growing inmagazine, which stresses the vi-

Islam" - an Americanised blend of the strands of Islam which has little truck with restrictions oo women. "The US is arguably the best place on earth to be Muslim," the report

says. "Multicultural democracy, with its guarantees of religious freedom and speech, makes life easier for Muslims than in many Islamic states in the Middle East." It says Muslims are emerg-

ing in the professions and as a ing bloc TIS Mus

lims, it conclodes, may become a force to be reckoned with.

The demographic trend has oot gooe unnoticed by the White House. At the end of Ramadan, the President sent a message to the Islamic countries and American Muslims, and Hillary Clinton hosted a party for Muslim women.

It is in foreign priorities where the demographic shift may be felt most keenly. Already, the coolness between Is-

Washington has clipped US wings in the Middle East. It has also provoked divisions among American Jews about how Washington should proceed.

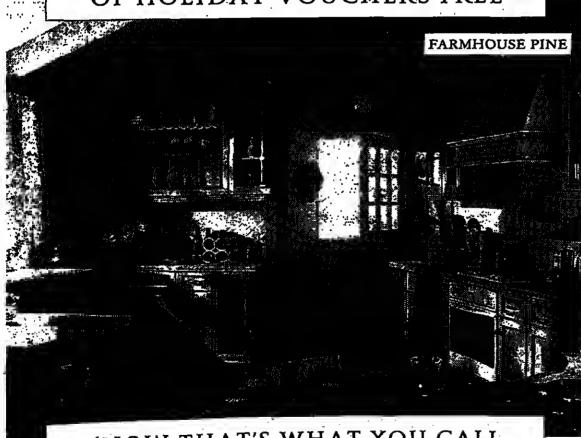
But while policy differences and declining numbers may weaken the celebrated "Jewish lobby", there is as yet no Islamic lobby to challenge for more influeoce, And Washington, still caught in the thicket of past hostilities with Iraq, Iran and were 1,571 cases, resulting in 78 Libya, is finding it hard to con- arrests. A record 2,066 cases

Within the decade, however, it may not be thirst for Middle East oil that pushes Washington to treat with Arabs, but a wealthy, vocal and streamlined lobby right in its midst.

■ Chicago (Reuters) — The number of anti-Semitic incidents in the US has dropped for the third consecutive year last year, the Anti-Defamatioo League reported. In 1997 there

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#### **Danish PM** clings to power

DENMARK'S Social Democrat-led government scored the carrowest of victories in Wednesday's general elections - its one-seat majority served up by a few hundred waverers in Greenland, writes Imre Karacs.

Confounding opinion polls which had predicted a win for the opposition led by Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the outgoing administration's expert handling of the economy was rewarded by the voters, but the extreme right made strong gains.

"I want the present economic policy to continue," Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen declared after his triumph. There will be no slackening."

During Mr Rasmussen's tenure since 1993, unemployment has been nearly halved, to just over 7 per cent, the economy has experienced one of Europe's best growth rates, and budget deficits turned into a surplus last year. Yet this boom has not prevented the rise of the racist Danish People's Party, which scored more than 7 per cent and enters the political stage with 13 MPs at its first attempt.

# Turkey plays the spectre at feast for the new Europe

THE LEADERS of the 26 present and aspiring members of the European Union yesterday celebrated the impeoding launch of EU enlargement, only to find the lavish affair domioated by Turkey, the country that refused to attend the party.

The first European Coo-ference, two-and-a-half hours of choreographed confabulation on either side of a state hmcheon hosted by the Queen at Buckingham Palace, was above all symbolic, marking what the Commission President, Jacques Santer, called a "historic chance" to unite Europe for the first time in 500 years.

But from the potential stumbling block of Cyprus to the Conference's one substantial decision, to step up co-operation in the fight against illegal drugs trafficking, the ghost of Turkey, which refused to come after being excluded from even the second wave of candidate

countries, dogged proceedings. An offer from Glavkos Clerides, President of the internationally recognised Greek Cypriot republic, to include Turkish Cypriots in the team

which is scheduled to open negotiations with Brussels at the end of this month, appeared The absence of Turkey re-

doomed to rejection, as it failed moved much of the point of to meet Ankara's demand for this drugs initiative by the EU, prior recognition of the Turkgiven that Tirkey's position beish Republic of North Cyprus, tween Asia and Europe makes the statelet headed by Rauf it a key conduit for hard drugs Denktash. EU foreign ministers like opium and heroin from the will make another attempt to Far East and the former Sovibridge the gap when they meet et republics of central Asia. informally in Edinburgh today Having failed with every and tomorrow. But if they fail blandishment to lure the Turk-

to do so, Cyprus may turn into ish Prime Minister, Mesut Yilan obstacle that conceivably maz, to yesterday's summit, the could wreck the eotire en-EU can but hope Ankara swiftly changes its mind. The invi-Britain insists that, failing an tation was "genuinely meant", agreement, accession talks Tony Blair insisted yesterday. should none the less start with The conference was a the Clerides government. "great political occasion", Pres-France, however, feels the exident Jacques Chirac told his

ercise would be pointless if the

Turkish Cypriots were absent

Turkey has a place among us." and an overall Cyprus settle-But Mr Yilmaz seems to ment had not been achieved. But if the French have their have decided otherwise, and way and EU discussions with blames Germany above all for Cyprus are put on ice, then the impasse, accusing it of in-Greece might retaliate by sisting on a "Christian Eublocking the start of entry rope," in which it might acquire talks with the other five firstmore "Lebensraum" to the round candidates - Poland, East. That reference to the Nazi Hungary, the Czech Republic. justification for the extra ter-Estonia and Slovenia. Negotiritories it seized in the Second ations with Lithuania, Latvia, World War has especially in-Slovakia, Bulgaria and Roma-



Old hands: Tony Blair with the French President Jacques Chirac at Buckingham Palace yesterday Photograph: Reuters

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keeps race at heart of citizenship tained the overwhelming prionity accorded to genetic origin.

Germany

THE LATEST attempt to reform Germany's anachronistic. law on citizenship has been sacrificed on the altar of government unity.

Threatened with the demise.

of the coalition, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's junior partners. the Free Democrats, abandoned plans this week to support a change in the racial motivated rules on nationality.

Their U-turn robs hundreds of thousands of children born in the country of the chance to automatically become German citizens.

Since 1913, a German has been defined as a person with German blood in his or her

Millions of "ethnic Germans", whose ancestors had been settled in Russia by Catherine the Great, have "returned" to the land of their forefathers, many unable to utter so much as a Guten Tag. They do, however, enjoy all the trim-mings of the welfare state, including a passport, subsidised language courses and generous resettlement grants.

Immigrants, their children and their children's children brought up and educated in Germany have, meanwhile, remained nationals of the old

Unlike most other states in Europe, Germany does not grant citizenship to people who are merely born and resident in

An estimated seven million "foreigners" are reckoned to be living in Germany. The Free Democrats, the opposition Social Democrats, and some lead-ing politicians in Chancellor Kohl's party, have recognised that the current practice hinders their integration.

After protracted horse-trading, the Social Democrats struck a compromise with the liberal elements in the government.

Their amendment, which was due to go to the Bun-destag later this month, proposed to grant automatic citizenship to the childreo of "foreigners", in cases when at least one parent had been born in Germany.

In practice, this change would have mostly affected third-generation "Gastarbeiter" -workers imported in the Sixties for tasks deemed even then too menial for the natives.

At the age of 18, such "new Germans" would have still had to choose between their German passport and the nationality of their grandpareots, because Bonn does not recognise dual citizenship. And the amended law would have re-

But even this minor relaxation proved too radical for the right. Bavaria's Christian Social Union, the most conservative faction in the governing block, had vehemeotly opposed any

In the end, the mainstream represented by Chancellor Kohl was forced to come down in favour of the Bavarians. mocrat defectors had inflicted an unprecedented defeat on the government, siding with the opposition on the vote on a controversial bugging law.

After that fiasco, the Bavarians made ir clear that their liberal partners would not get away with another act of defiance. "Anyone from the FDP who votes with the SPD on citizenship law would vote against



Kohl: Had to shelve reform:

the coalition and destroy its basis for co-operation," warned Bernd Protzner, the General Secretary of the Christian Social Union. The FDP heard the

message and surrendered. The row and eventual impasse over this issue is a perfect illustration of the paralysis in Bonn. In the past four years, Chancellor Kohl has had to shelve virtually all his reform plans because of sniping from the wings. With elections approaching and the coalition heading for defeat, the tur-

moil is set to become worse. Not content with shooting down the nationality law, the Bavarians are upping the stakes, demanding tighter restrictions on foreigners already resideot io Germany.

That in turn is likely to prooke a backlash from the Free Democrats, who must urgently demonstrate their enduring liberal spirit to their dwindling

None of this is improving Mr Kohl's electoral chances. The latest poll puts the CDU-CSU block 11 points behind the resurgeot Social Democrats. while the FDP is tectering on the brink of extinction.



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#### 17/FOREIGN

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# Milosevic races to halt killing in Kosovo

in Belgrade

THE Yugoslav President Slo-bodan Milosevic is racing against the clock to solve the Kosovo crisis having put the province on the international agenda by supporting the killing of dozens of Albanian villagers.

With the international community threatening sanctions if he fails to act positively in the next 10 days, he must now decide whether to escalate the tension he has created, or to sit down and negotiate seriously.

This test of his political mettle could not be played out over a more intractable problem. The Kosovo question has threatened to pit Albanians and Serbs against each other in armed conflict since 1989, when the province's Albanian majority lost their autonomy and found themselves subject to a police

state controlled from Belgrade. Long before the current killing spree, the Albanians cut off all relations with the Serbs and created their own parallel state as a prelude to a full independence. The Serbs, meanwhile, refused to let the province go, vaunting their nationalist attachment to the land of the first Serb rulers and the seat of the Serb Orthodox Church.

While President Milosevic's government has continued to insist that Kosovo remain Serb, the reality is that fewer and fewer Serbs are staying and only the repressive police presence has prevented an Albanian takeover.

The paramilitary attacks oo rural villages, dressed up as a campaign to root out Albanian terrorism, have actually served President Milosevic quite well in domestic politics: he has created consensus in the fragile coalition government a

distracted attention from their desperate economic problems. But oow he has to deal with ao enraged outside world. The six-nation Contact Group unposed a number of punitive measures last Monday and threatened further sanctions if progress towards a solution was

Essentially, President Milosevic has three options: he could resume the police attacks and escalate the conflict; he could use

not apparent by 25 March.

the threat of war as an excuse to give Kosovo away; or hecould keep sowing confusion and milk the crisis for all it is

The advantage of the first option, total force, is that it would keep alive the nationalist dream that brought him to power. The disadvantage is that Serbs have been deeply disillusioned by the Yugoslav wars of secession and have little stomach for another fight. An already impoverished Serbia probably could not survive another bout of deep international isolation and could be devoured if the conflict sucked in the Albanian communities of Macedonia, Bulgaria and Albania itself.

The advantage of the second option, capitulation, is that Kosovo cannot be maintained by force alone and risks becoming a serious political liahility as the Albanian population swells and Serbian numbers dwindle. If Kosovo remains within Serbia, it could be just a few decades before the Albanians can outvote the Serbs - not just in their own province, hut in the country as a whole.

The disadvantage is that capitulation would never be swallowed by a political class that has vowed time and again to keep Kosovo Serbian.

That leaves option three, fudging. This is certainly the game Mr Milosevic has played so far: yesterday he seot a negotiating team to Pristina, the Kosovo capital, to hold talks with the Albanians. Only the day before, however, the police had forced villagers to bury their dead without forensic scientific examination of the bodies. T he Albanians turned down the offer to talk, calling it a Serbian . exercise in "play-acting".

Mr Milosevic was one of the key instigators of the national sentiments that triggered the fighting. when the time was ripe, however, he softened his line and made himself an indispensable guarantor of peace.

He seems to want to play a similar game in Kosovo. But does he really have anything to offer the Albanians, and can the exasperated international community avoid falling into the same trap again?



Star performers: Israeli girls waving yesterday during the annual parade in Tel Aviv for the Jewish festival of Purim - the Feast of Lots, which celebrates deliverance from the plot of Haman. A quarter of a million people lined the city's streets

#### Swept by a gale of vodka and humbug

MOSCOW

DIARY

Phil Reeves

Baroness Thatcher is a mystery,

given their loathing for their own

Mikhail Gorbachev. "She sym-

bolised order, that's all," says my

Rossian colleague, Lena. The

survey was, however, compiled

before Russians found out about

her plans to host a dinner for Aslan Maskbadov, the President

of Chechnya, who - much to

the irritation of some here - is

visiting Britain this week.

T'S OVER for another year, thank God. While International Women's Day slides by unnoticed by most other countries, Russia marks the occasion with a two-day holiday in which the entire country is swept by a gale of humbug, bogus gallantry, and vodka.

This year was even worse than last. One male politician after another barged onto the airwaves to make self-serving speeches about the wonders of the fairer sex.

The occasion did at least offer the Russian media a chance to explore the intricacies of the male attitude to women, who are generally viewed as awesome matriarchs or simpering ornaments or - occasionally both. There were several sur-veys about gender, the most nteresting of which was published by Moskovski Komsomolets newspaper.

Muscovites were asked to name the women they felt had played "a superlative role in world history, politics, art, literature sport, and other areas of human life". The overwhelming winner - with 21 per cent - was Margaret Thatcher. Princess Diana came third with 11 per cent. Catherine the Great only managed fifth place. The respect Russians hold for

wrinkled trunk - like the longfaced Russians themselves, elephants are clearly thought to be happier than they look.

This will have to be chalked up as one of the many small, strange differences that separate the British from the Russians. Most defy explanation. Why do Russians insist they will get a sore throat if they drink chilled drinks, yet buy ice cream on the streets in the middle of winter? And why do they believe overcoats carry germs, a conviction held with such vehemence that they are insulted if you keep your anorak on indoors?

They feel equally baffled by us. The other day, I invited a handful of Russian colleagues for an early-evening drink. I of-Russian champagne (a favourite

novelty, and they fell on it with the eagerness of Tiggers trying Pooh's honey. Big mistake. "Why do you foreigners like this stuff?" asked one, wavy-lipped with disgust. "I suppose it's not really surprising," volunteered Yelena, our two-year-old's nanny, "I have known this family for two years and not once have I seen them eat a single slice of

sausage." There was universal

astonishment.

here). The cheese was clearly a

the reason for Oleg's elephant-like glee is parked on a patch of icy mud outside his front door. He is, he announced, the proud owner of a new, bright red Niva. When you consider what he went through

his annual salary. So he took a

motor-minded friend to check the car over, knowing that there would be no exchange or refund if it turned out to be a duffer. They found two significant faults, which Oleg later fixed at home. While the West is moving to

correct the damage wrought by the motor age, this city is only just entering it. Like most Muscovites, Oleg has no garage, but a light-weight metal shed, which looks like a bread bin. Nor does he have insur-

ance, as the \$700 annual fee is well beyond the pittance he earns as a linguistic expert in the Russian army. What happens if your new wheels are stolen. I asked? He shrugged. But the moment we switched on the engine to take it for a spin, his elferred them some ripe brie and to get it his rapture is justified. derly mother shot out of his was chunky and not suitab camembert, and semi-sweet. The car cost strong way over front door to check us out. Who media coverage, he said. derly mother shot out of his was 'chunky' and not suitable for needs a car alarm?

#### China makes rights pledge

CHINA yesterday made its most forthright commitment yet to sign the United Nations covenant on human rights. The foreign minister, Qian Qichen, said Peking "intends to sign" the pact, but gave no timescale.

Peking is buoyed by the European Union's decision not to sponsor a motion criticising China's human rights record at next week's Geneva meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission. It is now anxious to head off any such move by the United States.

An invitation has also been extended to Mary Robinson, the UN Human Rights Commissioner, to visit China, possibly in June.

Room to lay

#### — Teresa Poole, Peking

THE European Commission has proposed giving Europe's 250 million egg-laying battery hens a bit more room.

All hen houses built after next year would have to allow each bird at least 800 square cm of cage area. The present minimum space is 450 square cm. - Reuters, Brussels

#### Killer sane

THAI police have said psychological tests have shown that a medical student who has confessed to killing his girlfriend, chopping her up and flushing the pieces down a toilet is not

Charges of premeditated murder, which carry the death penalty, would be filed against Serm Sakhonrat, 23, once evidence collection is completed. --- AP, Bangkok

#### **Weighty issue**

AN Australian soldier was ordered off ceremonial duties at the receot world swimming championships because he was too "chunky".

"In my 27 years of service, f" have oever been so professionally insulted," saidRay Douglas, who was removed from poolside duties in Perth in January after defence minister Ian McLachian spotted him on television. "I was informed that The



#### Armani angry at fashion fiasco

PARIS (AP) — Giorgio Armani yesterday accused French officials of cancelling his first Paris fashion show on a whim and said he planned to talk to his lawyer about how to proceed. Officials cancelled the show

on Wednesday evening, minutes before it was to take place in the Place Saint Sulpice on the Left Bank, claiming that the tent where it was to be held did not meet safety standards. Riot police had to be deployed when an angry crowd of about 1,000 invited guests protested noisily. against the closure.

In an interview yesterday, Armani said he was disappointed and bewildered: "They cancelled the show without even asking us what we had done ... Things are really different now from how they were 20, 30 years ago. France and Italy aren't so far apart anymore," the Italian designer said.

Armani added that while his goal was to resume work on his collection, he planned to consult his lawyer about the best course of action. "We spent a lot of money on this show and never saw the results. That is a problem." He did not say how much money, but there were reports that it cost up to \$1m (£625,000).

At the show, Armani had intended to celebrate the August launch of a new perfume, "Emporio Armani", and the opening of his new shop just blocks away from Saint Sulpice.



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# Still fighting for her place

Despite moves to open up exclusive men's clubs to women, the battles that really count are yet to be won, argues Joan Smith, author of 'Misogynies'

who spend a lot of time in cen- ecutive, Tim Lamb, told her she tral London, have £13 a week could not be considered for protn spare, and enjoy hanging out motion if she had children. with elderly Tory MPs - the Some time after the termina-Carlton Club has voted in admit women. Another bastinn of from depression, she was told male chauvinism has fallen, she was being dismissed and nffurther evidence that women fered £1,000 tn be "a good are winning the battle for equal girl". Mr Lamh is now denying rights - nr are they? The result the allegations. nf the ballot was announced nn Wednesday, the same day that nf the ECB as an organisation an industrial tribunal hearing in where misogyny was rife, with London accepted that a 32-yearnld woman was pressured intn larly making "crude and having an abortion by her em- derogatary remarks about ployers, the England and Wales

Cricket Board. did not put in a defence, is a to as lesbians and dykes". Her much greater landmark for case, which follows last month's women than the vote by Carlton Club members. The tribunal ruled that Theresa Harrild was provides a startling insight into a victim of sex discrimination, an anachronistic area of the unanimnusly accepting her ac-sporting world in which women count of events as "truthful". Ms are routinely regarded as dif-Harrild told the tribunal that, ferent - and sends a powerful when she became pregnant by message that such attitudes will one of her colleagues at the no longer be tolerated. ECB, she was pressured into having an abortion. The ECB cial case, in which discriminapaid for the operation in cash, tion appears to be more deeply

tion, when she was suffering

Ms Harrild painted a picture

senior members of staff reguwomen". Members of the England women's cricket team, she The case, in which the ECB said, "were continually referred decision by members of the MCC not to admit women,

While cricket may be a spe-

general, the conduct of the ECB is a salntary reminder of Harrild had no idea, when she took a job there in June 1996,

of the kind of organisation she would be working for. She enjoyed her £14,000-a-year post until she became aware of what she called the "sexist atmosphere" - a phrase which, in these days of upbeat, can-do feminism, has a distinctly dated ring tn it. It's easy to imagine, when we

look at the record number of women in the House of Commons, that the big battles have been won. The crusading lan- of traditional feminism. guage of two or three decades ago, the call to arms in books one male member of staff say such as The Female Eunuch, sounds strident and confrontational to young women who grew up in a decade when Britain had its first woman prime minister.

\*Feminism is about equaliless," Natasha Walter argues in her book, The New Feminism. This would be fine in a world where men and women have ex-

GREAT NEWS for women she claimed, after the chief ex- entrenched than in society in actly the same goals and can work together.

But the truth is that we inwhat women are up against. Ms habit a culture where a woman's place, her right to be treated on equal terms, cannot be taken for granted - and is not even universally viewed as desirable.

> This week's supposedly historie vote of the Carlton Club has yet to be ratified by its general committee - and two nut of five members voted against admitting women. For Theresa Harrild, plunged into a milieu where female employees are not valued as much as their male colleagues and pregnancy an inconvenience, it is the language

that a female staff member needed her legs prised open with a cricket bat," she said. That such remarks could be made openly in the 1990s, in the hearing of women employees, demonstrates that the demand ty for women, nothing more nor for equality in jobs, wages, practices. If that were the case, childcare - the clarion call of the all women would need to do is New Feminism - is not enough. The reason we don't yet have -as we have, vociferously, since nists have yet to experience for years, has not maintained its ban those things, or have achieved the late 1960s - and the injus-

"On one occasion I heard



a matter of nutdated working remedied. point out instances of unfairness

them only partially, is not just tice would immediately he

This is not how the world operates. The awkward reality, which some of the New Femithemselves, is a deep-seated on female members because of

loathing of women which has led to our systematic exclusion from certain types of organisations. The Carlton Club, which has kept women out for 166

The City trading floors, like many

other workplaces, have admitted women, but one individual can face a daily struggle confronting the prejudices of men

Photograph: Kevin Lamarque/Reuters

an oversight. Nor has the Garrick. The unstated raison d'erre of these men-only establishments is to provide members with a space they don't have to share with women - except in the capacity of waitresses.

Of course this isn't true of all men. From the beginning, men like William Godwin and John Stuart Mill were nutspoken advocates of women's rights. But a generation of young women has grown up, protected from the unpleasant fact of misogyny, largely as a result of the struggles of women who are now in their 50s and 60s. These days, woman-hating tends to be subterranean, concealing itself in pockets, but that doesn't mean it no longer exists. It ien't much comfart to Theresa Harrild, driven tn a nervous hreakdown by attitudes which are supposed to have died out, to suggest that her case has done other women a service. But it serves as a vivid reminder of why we are excluded from some areas of life - nf the fact that misogyny, even if it has gone underground, is as virulent and de-



The Cariton Club: opening its doors to women

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

#### The kind of attitude and the kind of man

IT DID NOT take long for the rulers of English cricket to be back in the news for all the wrong reasons.

Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board, the man . who had appeared as the regretful voice of progress and reason following the MCC's failure to admit women members, is not averse, it seems, to calling female cricketers "dykes" who should only be put on the board to get more lottery money.

The same Mr Lamb, an industrial tribunal was told, had been part of a group of ECB officials who had bullied Theresa Harrild into having an abortion after s had an affair with an executive.

In the public opprobrium that followed the MCC's decision to keep their club free of women, the ECB stated this was simply a hitch on the way to equality. Mr Lamb appeared for photo opportunities with his is important now is for people to realise that the ECB is fully committed to the role of . possible in encourage them to participate from school age onwards."

All that however sounds rather cynical when juxtaposed with the evidence given to the tribunal which ruled that Miss Harrild had been the victim of sexual discrimination. The chairman stated: "The tribunal is unanimous in finding Miss Hamild's evidence was truthful." Yesterday



Tim Lamb on a PR shoot with his daughter Sophie; right, Theresa Harrild

allegations, but admitted the organisation had not been effective in discarding stereowomen in cricket and is doing everything types about the sport being steeped ideas of the old boy network and in the public school. His words came as another woman employee at Lord's alleged sex discrimination, "malicious" behaviour by male

> staff and heing sent pomographic e-mail. Mr Lamb's views on reform have been rather ambivalent. One of his first public utterances as the boss went something like: "Revolution? I'm not a fan. Revolution of- ly in the field of sex discrimination.

cricketing daughter and declared: "What Mr Lamb issued a statement denying her ten leads to counter-revolution." But he did go on to say "fundamental structural changes are needed", and that more had to be done to encourage the sport at all levels, and among women.

Mr Lamb .(Shrewsbury and Queen's College, Oxford), had been a mediocre player with Middlesex. He is said to have a good grasp of the muts and bolts of the game, and of counties' problems. This does not, say cricket writers, qualify him to carry out root-and-branch reforms, especial-



Photographs: Richard Watt, Karl Prouse

Publicly, Mr Lamb and the ECB have maintained a policy of encouraging private clubs to allow women, and they want to amalgamate with The Women's Cricket Association. The Women's Cricket Association has backed the Lord's hierarchy in the dispute with Ms Harrild. However, the allegations made at the tribunal will not go away and do nothing to restore confidence in Mr Lamb or the cricket hierarchy. One senior MCC member. who voted for women, said: "We needed this like we needed a hole in the head."

Kim Sengupta.

# An interminable talkfest

An estimated 25 million words have been given in evidence to the hearings into Terminal 5, Britain's longest running inquiry. Randeep Ramesh adds up the cost

Heathrow Airport's proposed fifth terminal hit its 400th day nf hearings yesterday - making

An army of lawyers, consul-

public inquiry - and the most ners, noise pollution experts and with Labour MPs, environment INDEPENDENT WIN Warner Bros. plant opened in 1995.

Musicals range

local residents have been giving evidence to the inquiry, which has now been running for 60 days more than the previous record-holder - that into the construction of the Sizewell B TO MARK day 400 nf the innuclear reactor. That investigation gave the all-clear, and the

By the time the T5 inquiry ends, it will have cost around £100m. The investigation, which started on 16 May, 1995, was originally meant to last 18 months, but inquiry inspector Roy Vandermeer QC is exend of this year, with his report not due mitil after 2000.

Terminal 5 was devised by Heathrow's owner, the British Airports Authority. The com- cost the central Government pany can only start work on the £8m and local government £7m. £1.8bn project - designed to in- BAA has already spent £41m. crease Heathrow's capacity to 3) The airport operator may be 80 million passengers a year after ministers give the termi-

nal the go-shead. But the real result of the hearings may be the ditching of 4) More than 650 people have

THE INVESTIGATION into it Britain's langest running tants, town hall afficials, plan- Last week, in a private meeting minister Richard Caborn singled out the T5 inquiry as an example of the urgent need for reform of the planning laws.

> quiry, here are 10 things you didn't know about the T5 farce. 1) The biggest winner since the inquiry started is the Ramada Hotel - a four-star establishment on the edge of Heathrow, where the inquiry is being held. The higgest losers have been its guests - the hotel's swimming pool has been converted into a pected to hold hearings until the hall and about 50 bedrooms are in use as offices.

> 2) Some of the barristers in-The flight of fancy that is volved are being paid an estimated £2,000 a day. Latest estimates reckon the inquiry has ruing the day it dreamt up the new terminal. The company says it is set to cost it £200m by the time a decision is made. the public inquiry system itself. given evidence to Roy Vander-



Flight of fancy: an artist's impression of the interior of the proposed Terminal 5 for Heathrow

meer, spouting an estimated 25 million words. 5) The inquiry is nothing if not thorough. More than 50,000 questions have been asked of the witnesses appearing. At

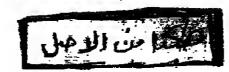
6) BAA's photocopier in the tors take trips to Amsterdam, Ramada hotel is, according to its manufacturer, the second most used in the country - with 8) BAA say 27,000 people more than one million copies

new terminal has seen inspec- ple oppose it.

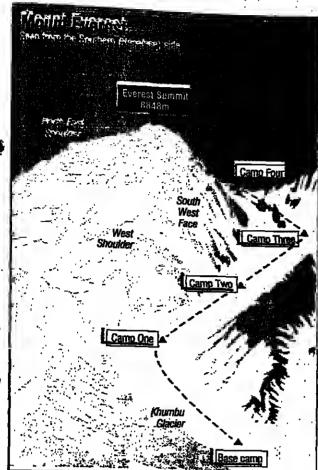
Paris, Frankfurt, Chicago and

support the new terminal. The development's apponents say least 4,000 documents have 7) The inquiry into London's about the same number of peo-

9) Mr Vandermeer is helped by nine planning inspectors. So many have been recruited, minister Richard Caborn explained recently, "in case some of them die before it's (wer". 10) Terminal 5 won't be ready until at least 2005,



# A queue is the height of madness



Two years ago the crowding on the narrowest part of the approach to Everest's summit caused fatal delays. Charles Arthur asks whether this year could see a similar tragedy



again. The permits have been issued for the three-mooth Himalayan climbing season which least seveo teams, including four from the US and two from

succeeding. But that's not because the risk of avalanches (responsible for 50 or so deaths) or medical conditions such as fluid build-up caused by altitude have risen. If anything, bottled oxygen, modern drugs and familiarity with the terrain have reduced those dangers.

Paradoxically, expeditioo leaders now realise that one of the biggest obstacles to reaching the summit and returning safely is other climbers, either on guided expeditions or from "national" teams, climbing for their country's glory.

In fact the latter may be the most dangerous. The antics in receot years of teams from India, South Africa and Taiwan have all severely worried the more experienced leaders of paid-for, guided expeditions. The greatest incompetence I have seeo on mountains is national teams without guides," says Steve Bell, head of Himalayao Kingdom, an expedition company from Sheffield. This year he and two guides will take seven clients (each paying £25,000) to try to reach the

IT IS almost the killing seasoo mountain's summit - but more importantly, to return safely.

Bell says that some natiooal teams "show a lack of orcods after May. In that time at ganisation and technique - not being roped together when going over terrain with crevasses the UK, will try to climb Ever- for instance. They don't take est, at 8.848 metres the highest enough food and equipment, so they end up taking other peo-Trying to reach Everest's ple's. And they will go for the summit is a dangerous business. summit when the conditions or While more than 700 people siming aren't right. There are have succeeded, 153 have died strangless examples of trying, or trying to return after teams being driven by some mad, patriotic fervour - as if lives are expendable as long as they get some people to the

> This year attempts on the summit will be made by an Indian team and a Singaporean team - making their first attempt. Is Bell worried? "Only that they might get in the way, or might need to be rescued because that has to come first above anything else," he says.

But the sheer volume of people oo Everest can be deadly, simply because there isn't room coough for everyooe when the mountain shows its vicious side. That was graphically demonstrated two years ago wheo a traffic jam on the highest mountain led to the deaths of expert and amateur climbers

Key to this tale is a 20-metre stretch of steep rock and ice called the Hillary Step, on the mountain's south-east ridge the most popular route to the summit - 8,790 metres above sea level and only 58 metres lower than the top.

The Step (oamed after Sir



Edmund Hillary, who surmounted it on the way to the first ascent in 1953) is a steep,

challenging section of rock and

Hillary described it, "over-

hanging a little drop of 10,000 But it's the only way up. Normally it is ascended by hauling oneself up on ropes. Two years ago however the ropes had blown away, and a queue built up as people waited for Anatoly Boukreev, a Russian mountaincering guide, to climb the Step and fix a rope at its top. Then all that would remain would be a determined plod up-

wards for another 50 metres

(160 ft) to the summit.

But even for a talented climber like Boukreev, climbing the Step and fixing the rope took more than an hour. In that ice climbing: "a fair cow", as time, a queue of about 30 climbers - mainly members of guided expeditions paying thousands of dollars to reach the summit – built up.

Only one person can go up or come down at a time. Hauling oneself up the ropes takes time. Descent is a cautious procedure, not a free-ranging slide. All the time, the climber feels cold, and unbelievably exhausted, with a crushing headache. "The closest thing to drowning," is how Ed Vies-

turs, who climbed the ridge a few days later, described it. Sit down, and you might oever find the determination to stand

The traffic jam made everyone's schedules slip, and Everest above 8,000 metres is oo place to dawdle. Every minute. your body is literally dying, because there is not enough oxygen to support life. But that day people reached the summit and descended to the top of the Step only to find people below waiting to come up.

Meanwhile the weather worsened in the valley below. Within hours it was blowing subzero air at 100mph over the corpse.

climbers, oow hours behind a timetable that would let them reach the top and return below 8,000 metres.

Night fell, and in the ensuing chaos, seven people died, including Roh Hall, leader of one of the guided expeditions. A few days later a team making a film for the widescreen Imax format - now just opened in London's Trocadero and the National Museum of Film and Photography, Bradford - came across his frozen, lifeless body not far below the Step. Bringing it back was not an option. At that altitude it is all you can do to lift your feet, let alooe a

Krakauer, one of Hall's clients. What's clear is that both Hall and the other guided expedition, led by Scott Fischer, should have turned their clients back long before the summit - perhaps even at the base of the Step, where the Taiwanese team, though many hours too late to

sected repeatedly, notably by the

book Into Thin Air by Jon

make a sensible attempt on the summit before nightfall, was waiting to go up. Bell has been there - be helped guide a group up Everest in 1993 - and knows the pit-

falls. "We have always stuck

and nfteo to the chagrin of clients. It's a trade-off because you want to maximise their chance at the summit. But the priority is safety." To the Imax cinemagoer,

languidly eating popcorn in a warm, sea-level theatre, the view from the roof of the world may look tolerably interesting. Will that lead to more people trying to get there? "I don't think it will discourage them," admits Jamling Norgay, son nf Tenzing Nnrgay, the Sherpa who made the first ascept with Hillary. "It might eveo eocourage them." That could be the strongly to having a time when most frightening fact of all.



make the new film. Below: Jamling Norgay, son of Sir Hillary's companion "Sherpa Tenzing" on the expedition, and, centre, the team in a storm









The episode has been dis- we turn back, no matter what,

# Got a problem, Fruity? I'm beginning a new life



#### JOHN LYTTLE

Gives a man's response to Chris Evans pledging to go gay for a year

red blooded raging heterosexual. Immediately kick Andrew out of bed, shouting he's a filthy bum boy and insisting I didn't know where I was and anyway I had been drunk last night. Andrew rolls eyes, said it was way too early to be talking dirty and besides I don't drink and we didn't do anything last night. Details, details. Demanded he step outside. Andrew sighs. "This is one of your straight days, isn't it?" "That's right fruity. Got a problem with that?" Andrew says yes, he does have a problem with that but experience was a great teacher, so he was simply going to pop a Prozac and alert the media. Ignore him. Scratch my arse and sniff my socks to see if there was another day's wear in them. Andrew snaps, "That's attractive"

and stomps out. Went to bathroom. Dropped the kids off at the pool. Refused to flush because I'm a real man. Flung wet towels on floor. Doo't bother cleansing, toning, moisturising or back combing either as chicks don't care if a guy has a face like Freddy Krueger. Look at Bryan Adams. Skin so humpy Stevie Wonder once tried to read it. Decide to skip shower, shampoo and of the control of the

of Old Spice as a chaser.

Can of Kestrel for breakfast. Buy the soaraway Sun. Sit on Tube with legs spread wide apart. Run my eyes over Page 3 for the first time. Nudge person next to me: "Cor! Look at the tits on that!" Old lady gives me startled look, moves to another seat

Arrive at work. Slap cute security guard on the back instead of the butt. Get into lift. Wait till it's full before breaking wind violently.

Office. Log oo. Down to work. Send E-mail to lesbian columnist telling her she's a frustrated old biddy who needs a good sorting out by a man who knows what a woman wants. I'm a riot I am.

Hang out with the gang in M&S shirts, polyester ties and stay-press trousers. Want to be accepted, so stand about with hand jammed hand in pocket and jiggle testicles. Bite back compulsion to talk about Madonna's new video. (You know, the one where Maddie can't get out of the duvet cover she's wearing because there's a hurricane blowing and she keeps turning into a wolf.) Close eyes and picture Oliver Reed vomiting up the cootents of

WOKE UP yesterday morning and found culine pheromones draw the drooling dol-weedy little drip from Business boasts that overnight I had become a 100 per cent lies like moths to a flame. Splash on litre about this fabulnus hird he's shagged I feel no need to enquire if it was a vulture, baldheaded eagle or gannet. Talk at the top of my voice about football instead, oever allowing anyone else to finish a scotence.

> No need to bother with the gym. Girls are gagging for a big gut and a generous portion of builder's cleavage

Pepper conservation with "The ref must have been hlind" and "It's a game of two halves" until ooe guy says he can't pretend any more, hursts into tears and sobs that his father died last night. Loog, uncomfortable silence until I ask if that meant. he hadn't been able to catch the match. Damn right he had: "We was robbed." Make unusual discovery. If you're a het-

erosexual women call sexual harassment. At least that's what the Arts secretary screamed when I asked if she was wearing tights or stockings. Must be one of those humourless lesbian feminists giving her dungarees the day off. Decide that being straight I don't

dubbed "men's talk". Another discovery.

What heterosexual men call banter, het-

need to bother with the gym. Girls are gagging for a big gut and a generous portino of builder's cleavage. Well, the skinny ones are. Those fat cows who've let themselves go just whine about the so-called dnuble standard, This is ignorance. Richard Littlejohn says scieotific research proves that the male heterosexual body automatically converts lard ioto beefcake, The fact that he must be suffering from a testosterone deficiency doesn't undermine his case. Anyhow, skip herb salad for lunch in favour of greasy, artery-clogging fry-up. A man's gotta eat what a man's gotta eat. Hormooe-pumped red meat, not battered cod-pieces.

Use loo. Remember to slouch at the urinal, looking oeither left or right but staring ahead at the imaginary red dot on the wall. Theo ootice my buddies are surreptitiously checking each other's equipobviously doo't talk about.

Receive E-mail hack from leshian columnist asking for "the came of the man mentioned in my earlier communication". Bitch. Speed rest of day picking my oose and flicking the cooteous randomly around the room. The Alpha-male marks his territory.

Pub crawl with the lads. Select Oasis instead of Abba on the jukebox. Get pissed, pick fight with bollard: "C'mon, if you think you're hard enough." Finish evening with "Babe Magnet" and deeppan pizza and six-pack, singing "Achy Breaky Heart". Observe how heterosexual men infinitely prefer each other's company much more than the company of women, who are either a) slags b) saints or c) that Louise who used to be in Eter-

Ring for taxi the momeot Babe Magoet throws his arms around me and slurs that he loves me, I'm his best mate. Get home, fall into hed, throw my arms around Andrew, siur that I love him, he's my best mate. Andrew says I'm not touching him until I have a bubble bath, a face pack and act gentle. Protest that this is hardly hutch. Andrew fold his arms and purses his lips: "Possibly oot Gazza, but

# INDEPENDENT

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#### The long shadow of Hassan

THERE IS a country bordering on the European Union which was founded as a modern, secular, democratic and above all European state. It saw its destiny so much as part of our contineot that it abandoned its ancient script and oow uses our Roman alphabet. And yet Turkey will oot be let ioto the club. Enlargement of the European Union is one of the priorities of Britain's presideocy, but Turkey is oeither among the five oext joiners, oor among the five next-but-ones, all of whose representatives assembled for talks in London yesterday.

So why is Turkey different from Estonia, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania? The first, and very important, answer is human rights. Despite its aspirations, and despite the very receot democratic credenoals of the coovoy of countries which has jumped the queue ahead of it, Turkey's political system still fails to qualify. Istanbul's politicians are not fully insulated from the military and there have been abuses of human rights, especially those of ethnic minorities such as the Kurds.

But this is oot the whole story, and it is worth pursuing further the reluctance to admit Turkey even into the EU's waiting room. For many, "not yet" is code for "oever", and the issue of human rights usefully postpones facing up to other reasons. Even if Turkey's democracy were above reproach, it would be argued that Turkey is "not in Europe" or that it does not share our "common culture". But ever since the goddess Europa fled from Phoenicia to Greece, the boundaries of Europe have been fluctuating and ambiguous and its cultural ideotity likewise.

What, then, is the real difference? It is that Turkey is a Muslim country. Ever since the giant Hassan stormed the wall of Constantinople at the head of a wave of Janissaries in 1453, ending a thousand years of the Christian Roman Empire of Byzantium, his shadow has fallen across the contincot. Up to the walls of Vienna and back, modern Europe's identity was forged in opposition to Turkish Islam. The spectre of the beathen at the gate even featured in British domestic politics as recently as Gladstooe's Midlothian campaign, fought oo the demand that the Ottomans be eject-

ed from Europe "bag and baggage". So is the enlarged European Union simply a oeo-Christendom, an ethnic and cultural eotity based on Christianity and Caucasian genes? (Never mind that the Caucasus mountains which gave their oame to a racial type are to the oorth and east of Turkey.) It cannot be, and it is as well to spell out why oot. John Laughland's book The Tainted Source last year argued that the ideology underlying the European Union is corrupted by German supremacism in a pan-European guise. He claimed that Paul-Henri Spaak, a Belgian founding father of the European Community, was a collaborationist and former intellectual admirer of Hitler, and that Jacques Delors was a disciple of a crypto-Nazi in the 1930s.

This is consense, giveo the EU's high and democratic principles. But it should force us to ask: is there such a thing as a European identity, and does the EU exist to give expression to it? Because there is a radical openendedness about the Unioo which is unsettling. There is the internal openendedness of the integration process, enshrined in the phrase "ever-closer union" in the Treaty of Rome. It was precisely to counter this eodless ambitioo that moderate Euro-sceptics, including our present Foreign Secretary, have championed the cause of an ever-wider union. This is the external open-endedness which yesterday saw the future eastern boundary of the Unioo pushed to the Black Sea and the steppes. But, as a permanent coodition of the EU, this process of expansion is just as disorienting as a process of permanent unification. Why stop at the Urals or the Bospborus?

Well, it has to stop somewhere, or the EU would simply be a free-trade and single-currency zone for advanced, liberal and democratic countries, regardless of cultural identity or geographical location. But Europe, as the region bordering oo the Mediterranean, has a much longer history than the land-mass of oorth and west Europe. It is a history divided by religion. but it is a divisioo (like the divisioo of Europe by communism) which the EU could overcome.

That is why we should wrestle with the shadow of Hassan. Bosnian Muslims certainly feel strongly that Europe's Christian heritage ensured that they were left to their fate, and there is much truth in that. Bosnia could have been a model for a secular, tolerant and liberal state in which Christians and Muslims lived together. If Turkey could follow that model, theo it should certainly be a candidate for European Unioo membership.

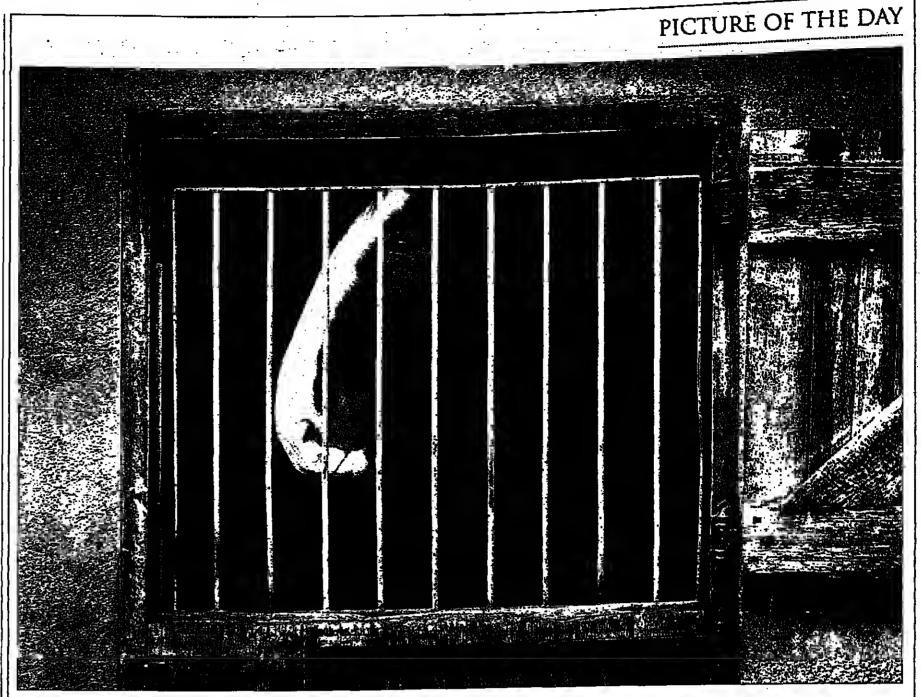
Trying to tie part of the Islamic world to western liberal democracy is not a strategy that has worked with Egypt, the greatest recipient of American aid after Israel. But the chances of success are much greater with Turkey, and the prize is great. Perhaps it will have to wait until Islamic agnosticism emerges as a dominant religion of Turkey, as Christian doubt has elsewhere, but it is important to offer the Turks a genuine chance to prove their liberal democratic credentials.

#### Blair's loyalty contest

LABOUR'S internal elections for its National Executive have long been derided as a beauty contest, but now the spin consultants of Millbank Tower want to turn it into the real thing. Tony Blair's reforms, designed to neuter the party's ruling body - sorry, ensure a constructive and supportive relationship with the Government - will kick MPs off the section elected by hallot of the entire membership.

This will stop Tooy Benn's avatar using it as a power base, but might let in a fifth column of Hattersleyites (as Trotskyists are known these days) among the unknowns on the ballot paper.

So, out goes to the call to loyal Blairite actors and pop stars on the membership list to put their names forward. But Mr Blair should beware. Last year's heroes of New Britannia have cooled already, with Damon Albarn, Jarvis Cocker and Alan McGee all taking shots at Labour policy. Someone should tell the Prime Minister that dissent is like putty: if you press it down at the top it squeezes out somewhere else.



Shy shire: Lingwood Majestic, a bay shire gelding 18.1 hands high, in his stall at Pilgrims Hatch, Essex, before leaving for the world's largest shire horse show at the Photograph: Brian Harris. A 9x12 print of this photograph can be ordered on 0171-293 2534 East of England showground this weekend

#### Duped by China

DESPITE the fact that Chinese suppression of political dissent in regions such as Tibet and Xinjiang is increasing year on year, the Jovernment assures us that, rather than backing UN condemnation of such oppression, it is only "constructive engagement" with the People's Republic that will ensure political change.

Most human rights organisations agree that such political appeasement whether the reteotion of Most Favoured Nation trading status or the uncoupling of trade from human rights - has a direct and immediate influence oo the political climate in China - for the worse.

Our increasing economic inolvement in China has given the Communist Party there a large stick with which to beat us, simply because Britain oeeds China's emerging markets and cheap labour more than China oeeds Britain's trade. China. oot the West, has the upper hand in such "engagement".

As the receot row over Chris Patten's book has demonstrated, it is not China's political climate that is being changed by "constructive engagemoot", it is ours. We seem increasingly willing to give up our own human-rights principles and restrict our own democratic freedoms, in order to secure an economic foothold in the Middle Kingdom. The Labour Party's political naivety and weakness oo this issue is lamentable. The Chinese government must be laughing nt us, all the way to the bank.

Dr MARTIN A MILLS. School of African and Asian Studies University of Sussex Brighton

COLIN BROWN ("Murdoch monopoly inquiry demanded", 9 March) quotes my statement, which I admit gave orders to the Times correspondent in Peking, James Pringle, to write a favourable piece about Shanghai in The Sun. Mr Pringle assures me that oo such suggestion or order was given and that the request to write a piece for The Sun was a coincidence. JONATHAN MIRSKY

#### **LETTERS**

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

#### End of duty-free

IT WAS ministers of European Unioo governments who unanimously proposed scrapping duty-free sales within the EU in 1991, just before the completion of the Single Market ("Pressure grows for U-turn on duty-free," 10 March). The European Commissioo does oot

and aeroplanes represent one of the most narrow argumeots yet pot forward by those trying to get the decisioo reversed. They should be answering the question of why air and ferry passeogers, particularly regular ones, should continue to benefit from what amounts to an unfair tax advantage.

By the time duty-free sales end in June oext year, the industry will have had oearly eight years to prepare for the changes. If, after all that time, we are still being confronted with doomsday scenarios of huge job losses and bankruptcies, one has to ask where the responsibility for that

GEOFFREY MARTIN Head of the Representation in the United Kingdom The European Commission

London SWI

#### Women and computers

IT IS a risky generalisation to suggest womeo have different priorities from men. However, I believe informatioo technology companies was maccurate, that Rupert Murdoch and commentators could help to cal and safety considerations, not change women's attitudes to IT least the management of "posses-(Network, 10 March) by stressing two important facts.

First, that IT (in the form of email) provides by far the most costeffective way of keeping in touch. Almost none of the female friends to whom I've described the benefits of the Internet realised initially that

secood at local call rates and hence and the operating railway over the that the incremental cost of each, once the subscription is paid, is virtually nil. This point is rarely stressed. in service providers ads.

Secood, IT is set to have an extraordinary impact on our childreo's education. The instant availability of unlimited factual knowledge via IT tal of £2.58bo to 2007. will increasingly mean we must coovote legislation into effect in the EU. centrate on teaching children how Dire warnings of chaos on ferries rather than what to learn. Inevitably, this will have a huge impact both oo the role of teachers and the contributioo parents can make.

Finally, computers, which do tend to be seen as a male preserve, have revived the art of correspondence for men. I, at least, have written scarcely one personal letter over the past 20 years. Yet since Christmas I've been in regular contact by e-mail with about six male friends to whom I'd previously sent nothing more than a "let's keep in touch" at the foot of an annual Christmas card. DAVID ROBERTSON'

Technology Response Ltd. West Malvern, Worcestershire

#### A safer railway

THE Health and Safety Executive's Railway Inspectorate is right to spotlight areas of the UK railway where maintenance may be in doubt or the scale of deterioration may warrant track renewal ("Railtrack warned of safety prosecutions", 3 March).

However, the management of maintenance, renewal and investments involves considerable logistisions", whereby track is made available for work and handed back for service at agreed intervals. The need is to minimise the disruption of operations. The chief consideration is safety but operational issues are not far behind.

The public oceds to understand messages were sent in fractions of a that under-investment in the network London NW3

#### Selling a house

IF THE excellent scheme of legally binding bids which obtains io Norway (letter, 12 March) is to work in-England and Wales, it first requires a complete change in the attitude of house buyers and sellers.

I know of nowhere else worldwide where a house purchaser expects u seller to wait whilst the purchaser sells his own bouse. This is the real cause for delay. In Norway, and indeed elsewhere, a purchaser is bound by his offer and has to seek bridging finance. Completioo cao 🌲 then take place within weeks and the purchaser must assess the risk be runs of having two properties on his EWS oo freight stock; by Railtrack hands.

for investment in stations, permanent CHRIS CHARLES Cheadle,

are also investing in technology, ca-JOHN A DAVIS'S letter (10 March) pacity, human capital and new manreminded me of an argument I had with an estate agent. Apropos advertising budgets and advance fees. he said "All I waot is my downside covered ... "

Io the real world of trade and commerce, to which he was obviously a complete stranger, no one has their "downside covered". In the hotel business, for instance, we have to maintain a building with comfortable beds in it and food ready to feed guests. We have to advertise our services in order to obtain those guests. Can you imagine what the estate agent's reaction would have been had I included on his bill an extra fiver "for advertising"? SBARRACLOUGH

fraid and Just

#### Don't knock it

last 10 to 15 years cannot be reversed

overnight. Already we are witness-

ing the largest scales of investment

ever seen. Investment announced by

Railtrack some time ago is already

under way. Some £260m was com-

mitted over the last 12 months, a to-

Announcements by Virgin for West

Coast and Cross Country stock; by

way, signalling and new train control

systems are just the headlines. Train

operators, suppliers and contractors

agement systems. The full effects of

these announcements will not be vis-

icism, but he is pushing an open door.

Managing Director, The QSS Group

WHEN elections by proportional

representation lead to bargaining

among political parties, British com-

mentators are often quick to make

remarks about "instability" and

"horse-trading". Can we look for-

ward to similar comments about the

inability of first-past-the-post to

bring stable government to India?

The inspector is right to raise crit-

ible for a few years.

Voting reform

DAVID HOWARTH

MICHAEL G WINWOOD

YOU REPORT (11 March) that "knocking" adverts directed against the tobacco companies prove effective in stopping people smoking. If this is so, why do illegal drugs sell so well? After all, drug barons don't get much good press. IOHN LAWRENCE

#### Diversification

COMMERCIAL locongruity is rife. Sainsbury's is a bank, Boots is a sandwich bar, and God knows what those pop-record people Virgin aren't into. But can anybody beat this flyer that came through my letter box today: "Thames Water customers cao oow get cheaper gas from Loodoo Electricity." I feel faint. DAVID GIBBS

#### At last, the tobacco industry admits the link it has always denied

London W11



I LEARN from inside sources that in the course of the next year the tobacco industry has decided to come clean.

Yes, the tobacco industry has finally agreed to admit something that it bas oever admitted before.

It has finally agreed to admit that there is a link - let me spell this out clearly - that there is a DEFINITE PROVEN LINK between tobacco and smoking.

For years the tobacco industry has denied that there is any link between cigarettes and smoking," says Adrian Wardour-Street, the PR man who is spearheading the campaign to admit the link without seeming to do so. "And we were quite right so to refuse! Oh, yes, there was plenty of anecdotal evidence to link tobacco and smoking, but we could never find the ultimate proof, the unshakeable, 100 per cent evidence that there was a direct link between tobacco and

But surely there could oever be any doubt, could there? Why else would people buy tobacco in the shape of cigarettes except to smoke it?

"For hundreds of reasons," says Adrian. To look glamorous. To offer to other people. To barter at the end of World War Two. To throw to people in Third World countries. To use as stakes in friendly card games. To leave them as tips. To imitate Humphrey Bogart. To put behind your ear ... "

OK, OK. And then to smoke? "To smoke? We never had any idea that people were smoking the cigarettes as well," says Adrian, looking shocked. "I mean, we were just selling the cigarettes in a box to the public. What they did with them thereafter was up to them. We certainly never recommended that they be smoked. If you look at a packet of cigarettes of any era, you will not find any instructions for smoking on the side. I mean, when did you ever

buy a packet of cigarettes where it said on to support all this arts and sports sponthe side, Instructions for smoking - Withdraw First Cigarette From Pack, Put In Mouth, Light Far End'?"

What he said was true. I do not think I have ever seen a packet of cigarettes which told you how to smoke them.

"Exactly. So it came as a complete shock to us when people accused us of having a link with smoking. We had no idea that our cigarettes were being used for smoking!" But if the tobacco industry wasn't

geared to smoking, what on earth WAS it

geared to? . "The tobacco industry? Ob, my goodoess, the tobacco industry has always had its hands full with things like sports sponsorship, snooker, cricket, arts sponsorship, theatre, and so on, which is a pretty full-

time thing, without getting into things like

sorship? "Oh, from the sale of cigarettes."

For smoking? "Certainly not! Even now, the tobacco

industry finds it hard to believe that anyone would be so foolish as to smoke cigarettes. Before smoking, cigarettes are clean, rolled up portions of tobacco in pristine bits of paper. That's how we sell them. But if you smoke them, they are smelly, they are dirty, they are hot, they are dangerous, and they cause cancer. We recommend that people do not smoke cigarettes."

So you admit the link with cancer? "Oh, yes," says Adrian Wardour-Street cheerfully, "we've always admitted that. It's the link with smoking we find so hard to accept. Anyway, I don't see why the tobacco industry should come in for such hard knocks. Nobody ever sues car manufac-And where did the money come from turers for causing death, even though dustry is innocent after all.

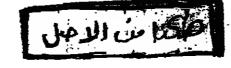
there is a proven link between cars and being run over."

So the tobacco industry fieds nothing in its history to be ashamed of?

"Nothing, nothing at all. Except..." here Adrian Wardour-Street lowers his voice, "except I think maybe we were unwise all those years ago to take over the tobacco plaot from the Red Indian. We did it in good faith. We assumed that because the indigenous American was using tobaccu. it was all right. We may have made a mistake. And if we received no warning from the original users, we must take action."

You mean ... ? "Yes. It is about time the tobacco industry sued the descendants of the indigenous American natives! They never warned us of the dangers of tobacco! This could be the biggest tobacco lawsuit of all time."

So there you have it. The tobacco in-



#### THE INDEPENDENT FRIDAY 13 MARCH 1998

#### Scottish tremors should act as an early warning for Blair



MACINTYRE

OF THE MANY things Tony Blair has to worry about, a challenge from political parties on the left of Labour isn't one. This wasn't true of his four predecessors as Labour Prime Ministers. The Communist Party may not have had much electoral success for most of this century, but well into the early Eighties it punched heavily above its weight in the unions and therefore in Labour's policy making machinery. Tightly knit groups of politi-cally motivated hatchet-faced men - and, let's be frank, some congenial, literate, idealistic and amusing men such as the communists Mick McGahey and Jimmy Airlie - were able to use their persuasive powers in drab-smoky rooms in seaside hotels, where union delegations met to decide how to vote at Labour Party conferences. Now the CP has imploded. Arthur Scargill's Socialist Party is a joke. The Morning Star is on strike, All this is the envy of some of Blair's European counterparts, such as Romano Prodi and Lionel Jospin, both of whom faced direct electoral competition on the left in the elections that brought them to power. Here there is nowhere on the left to go but Labour.

In England, at least. If you wondered what UK politics might be looking like if Blair was facing Italo-French style competition on the left, it's worth examining the case of Scotland. for the unionist (in Anglo Scottish terms) Blair This week an opinion poll asked Scottish electors how they would vote in the elections next year for the Scottish Parliament, It's only one poll, but the results were alarming for Labour, which secured 39 points to the Scottish National Party's 38 per cent. Given that the elections are only 14 months away, this raises the once unthinkable spectre that the SNP might become the largest single party in the new

There are lots of easy myths about the reasons for these results, the most exotic of which is that the whole country is up in arms at the fact that the Scottish nationalist film star Sean Connery was not made a knight, and that in the face of this provocation, the population is rapidly opting for independence. A second and related myth asserts that Scotland is simply a no-go area for Blamson, just as it was cherism. Those who take this latter view argue, for example, that the political culture is so different that the modernisers' ditching of tax and spend policies will never take north of the border, and that an SNP skillfully positioned by its leader Alex Salmond in old Labour economic territory is merely capitalising on that fact.

The truth is more mundane and more interesting. The Scots are not voting for independence, nor are they in love with higher taxes. Instead, disappointment that the Blair Government has not delivered more, faster, on its agenda has had a much noisier effect in Scotland, precisely because in the SNP ment may be tomorrow's English one.

disaffected Labour supporters, unlike those in England, do have somewhere else to go. Scottish grievances are not so different from those felt south of the border, if perhaps a little magnified. They concern, for example, the cots in lone parent benefits, and the fact that much of the extra money for education trumpeted by ministers has been more than offset by budget cots forced on local authorities by the rigid adherence to Kenneth Clarke's spending limits.

There is, however, one big difference, and that has to do with timing. Gordon Brown's most frequently uttered mantra bas always been that he is not going to repeat the past errors of Labour governments which have spent first and paid later. In his Budget speech on Tuesday, the Chancellor will be able, with justifiable pride, to announce yet another improvement in the public finances. In theory, he could use, for another three years, all the savings - such as those from the departmental spending reviews - for further good housekeeping (like, say, repaying the national debt) and only start to release revenue. whether for tax cuts or additional spending. much nearer the general election, when it really matters. It would be deeply painful but it could be done. But the Scottish elections matter in a way that not even next year'a local elections or the European elections do. For the results of a huge SNP breakthrough - unlikely though they are - would be ugly indeed



administration.

Now this scenario is, to put it mildly, pretty far-fetched. But it illustrates why Scottish polities has suddenly become, or should become, rather important to the English. For it is bound to fuel an already nascent debate, not just between old and new Labour, hut among modemisers about future strategy. One option, broadly, is that some more of the fruits of Brown's economic rigour - greater health and education spending and, perhaps, more redistribution through benefit increases for those for whom work is not necessarily the answer, such as poorer pensioners - should be brought forward. Another, contrasting, view is that the Government must not be panicked by the threat of short-term unpopularity, that Tuesday's budget measures - including welcome money for lone parents - not to mention the still-unfelt impact of the New Deal for the unemployed will begin to reap electoral benefits well before May 1999. That what is most needed is a more robust counter-attack on the SNP's opportunistic exploitation of the voters' impatience. That an example was set by Blair himself in Scotland last week when he reminded his critics that Labour election promises included those of not taxing and spending.

· This is a debate well worth having out while there is time. It deals with bow quickly the electorate are entitled to feel the Government's election promises are being redeemed. Not for the first time, today's Scottish argu-

#### The news on television presents its viewers with a smaller world

Human interest stories are of interest to

David Aaronovitch too. but not to the exclusion of analysis and comment

ONE by one the ancient bastions fall. Last week it was the flag on Buckingham Palace, and yesterday it became common knowledge that ITN's News At
Ten really would soon be shunted back to 11pm. This change - attempted a cou-ple of years back and frustrated by the personal intervention of John Major will apparently succeed the second time around because, as a senior ITV source said, "We will explain to the politicians why the move will make news on ITV even stronger." I look forward to such an explanation, which sounds as improbable and self-serving as a 70-yearold man's attempted seduction of a 20-year-old model on the basis of ber being able to benefit from his long amatory experience.

No, the news on ITV will profit to this extent alone: at 11pm it will no longer have to worry about catering for such a large and diverse audience as the one it struggled to inform at 10; because they won't be there, as sure as eggs is eggs. The true motive is to increase audiences earlier on ITV, in particular by allowing adult programmes to be shown uninterrupted (except, of course, by tampon and pet food ads) in the post-watershed slot between 9 and II. Mandy Pooler, managing director of the leading media huyers Mindshare, gave the game away by telling the Guardian that, We believe ITV can build audiences by moving the news. There is unilateral (sic) support for this in the industry."

So what? Who cares if they do move the bloody thing? Well, a year or so ago I thought I didn't give two hoots, but I've changed my mind. This is partly due to reading an article in this week's New Yorker in which the American writer David Remnick lamented the loss of good TV news is the US. They get ITN over there on cable channels, and Remnick observed that "To watch, say, the ITN evening news in Britain, is to get a glimpse of the greater world ... places that are nearly invisible to an American viewer. Moreover in Europe, from London to Moscow the evening news is broadcast in the evening, at 8 or 9, when orking people can actually watch it."

But the real reason for my change of heart has been the slowly growing realisation, prompted by the sight of a new government wrestling with exceptionally difficult problems, and by the paucity of intelligent coverage of the issues, of bow little good journalism there is in our country, and how we do not value what there is.

When I first joined London Weekend TV's cerebral current affairs show Weekend World in 1982, ITV and BBC news and current affairs people were the pampered élite of the broadcasting organisations. They were clever, arro-



gant, noisy, well-paid and confident. do we ensure," the Review document Pleasing the andience, insofar as it as thought about at all, was clearly secondary to presenting what the journalists thought were important stories or (more rarely) analyses on screen. Since that time, however a long and (I believe) increasingly corrosive debate has gone on about how to make current affairs more palatable to a larger audience.

We know the drivers for this debate: hugely increased competition, a result-

asked, "that we offer programmes which the market alone would never make YET [BBC emphasis] also remain in touch with the broadest of audiences?"

Yes, indeed. How do you ensure that? TV at the moment is awash with documentary series: Cutting This, Modern That, Inside The Other. The best of them are witty, revealing and provocative. But they are what they are, authored snapshots - and that is emphatically not

What happens when war seems imminent? Is it really good enough to leave it all to 'Newsnight' to analyse what is happening?

vertisers and the need for the BBC to triguing human tales, taking you inside maintain the legitimacy of the licence other peoples lives, but they do not tell fee. So, over the years a thousand con- you how much of something is hapsultancies have quizzed a zillion focus pening, why it is happening, how it might oups. In previous capacities, I was present on several occasions when the gloomy results were discussed, and the pressure was always in one direction. Viewers respected authority and balance, but what they really, really lusted after was relevance. They wanted (we were told) to see their own lives reflected in the stories. And they wanted good, gripping stories at that. Or, as the "BBC News Programme Strategy Review" reported last autumn: "They like strong evidence -clearly presented, human examples or first-band experience." As in shows like Channel 4's Cutting Edge documentary series, apparently. "How

ing battle for ratings, pressure from ad- current affairs. They may well tell inbe prevented from happening and what the consequences of such prevention might be. That is not their joh.

Meanwhile the programmes that might tell you this are being marginalised, denuded of resources and confidence, ignored or gradually forced to adopt a more popular agenda. Many have tried to ensure that they tell their stories better, more stylishly, only to discover that it has not been good enough.

BBC I, for instance, now transmits only one current affairs show in its 7 to 10 pm prime time schedule. Called Here and Now, and scheduled opposite Coronation Street, this week's edition dealt

with the pressures of schoolboy fontballers and conmen stealing family heirlooms. The flagship, Panorama, moved last year from 9.30 to 10pm and lost over 20 per cent of its audience. It now follows Pleasure Beach, yet another prime time docusoap. On ITV we can expect World In Action to disappear soon, and to be replaced by something in which - I will take a bet - "human interest" stories are to the fore.

Now, I just love human stories, I adore seeing real-life marital break-up, psychotic neighbours, sociopathic drivers, vexed chefs and harassed coppers. But what happens when - as was recently the case - war seems imminent? Was it really good enough to leave it all to Newsnight to analyse what was happening, and what the options were?

Look at this week's Radio Times for an illustration of what I mean. There were several programmes about child-care on the BBC this week. One (made by my partner, as it happens) was an examination of the quality of childcare in Britain. The others were: "Four couples tell the true story of shopping, sleepless nights and lack of sex" and "Four women in their mid-thirties (two of them high-fliers) are expecting a baby." Guess which two the Radio Times highlighted in its Choice column. So it's time for the pendulum to swing

the other way. We need a tad less lifestyle stuff, a teeny shift from the undoubted pleasures of voyeurism, a soupçon less observation, and a bit more robust, lucid, intelligent, analytical, honest, confident and well-resourced news and current affairs in our prime time TV schedules. Or do we want the world to become "nearly invisible" to the British people ton?

#### Richard and Judy commandeer the deck of our refitted vessel



MARR

Back on board, the Editor in Chief of The independent, answers those niggling questions that everyone is asking

been "resting" (in the actors' sense) for the past few weeks. Well, all right then. I was fired. Many of you wrote to me to commiserate afterwards and not a few expressed a sense of bafflement about just what was going on and why, and what might happen next.

But, while a believer in openness, I don't want to regurgitate past arguments. It would be messy, insanitary and imdignified. Much more important, there was a happy ending, which is rare in journalism. So I have decided to regard my head-first plunge from Canary Wharf Tower as a minor if spectacular diversion in the middle of the Independent drama - window left accidentally open - executive foot in the wrong place -dozy editor trips over it - flails - disappears - huge amusement all round - curtain - time for an ice-cream before the next act.

The Independent, however, has a reputation for being frank with its readers so here are my answers to some, at least, of the questions that have been fired at us since the change of ownership on Wednesday.

Why have you returned? First, because I was asked to. Second. because the new owners want to take the paper in the right direction. The shorthand term for that is "up-market" but a combination of words such as intelligent, serious, authoritative and literate gives a more accurate sense of what we mean by that. We don't mean turgid or Whitehall-obsessive: these days, serious coverage must include a lot of culture, science, technology and so on. Nothing is out of bounds. We can write about the Iranian economy or what Verve wear on their feet. The question is: how good, interesting and well-informed is the

Rosie Boycott and I have been told, in simple terms, to make the paper steadily more intelligent and serious. During an era when most

IT'S GOOD to be home. For those readers who badn't noticed, I have papers are dumbing down, it came as an unusual and exhibitaring instruction instruction. The second of our company, like Christical instructions are dumbing down, it came as an unusual and exhibitaring instruction. tion. Further, we have been given some money to spend on journalists - another happy surprise. The Independent will never be a fat-cat paper (in your dreams, Marr) but now we have the tools and ownership to do the job. Who, with a spark of imagination, could resist?

Hmm. You've mentioned Rosie Boy-

Yes, and before you start, we get on well and are both determined to carry on doing so. We are very different types, interested in different things. with different histories, prejudices and talents. But we both think we can make a better paper together than either of us could do separately. Fleet Street lore says that authority cannot

Will you change the editorial line of the paper, including the cannabis campaign?

The values of the paper are at its beart. We are a liberal, pro-political reform, pro-European paper, with friends in all parties and signed up to none. None of that is going to change a jot. The cannabis campaign was always an Independent on Sunday one, conducted vigorously, which is changing the terms of debate throughout the country. Rosie and I don't wholly agree about cannabis, though I do think it should be legalised for medical use but the IoS will carry on what it started. Are you going to go back to the previous design?

No. In different circumstances, it be shared in a newspaper - that it's would have worked. A lot of readers

Fleet Street lore says that authority cannot be shared in a newspaper -- that it needs a single cap'n to see it through. We disagree

like some kind of storm-tossed ship needing a single bawling cap'n with a peg leg to make it through. We disagree. We intend The Independent to be an open, comradely and freethinking organisation, without two loud and contending egos struggling with cutlasses on a slippery quarterdeck. But those members of staff who have taken to referring to us as Richard and Judy had better watch their step.

But who will do what? In day to day terms, I set the editorial policy in the "leaders" and oversee the comment pages, seven days a week: Rosie does the rest. But there isn't going to be a sharply divided paper, with two different characters doing different bits. We'll work together

liked it, some loathed it. One day, maybe, lots of newspapers will look that way. But you can't keep zig-zagging back and forth. The paper's design is now going to gently evolve in a direction we think you will approve of (if you notice it - newspaper design is, I know, something of vast interest to editors and vastly less interest to most readers).

But don't you have a big-stick praprietor, now, in Tony O'Reilly? I've worked with him as commentator and editor for three or four years and he has never once tried to influence the policy of this paper. He is no Rupert Murdoch. He likes journalists and journalism of quality, and expresses cheerfully earthy contempt for proprietors who try to stifle editorial

to the board of our company, like Chris Patten and Baroness (Helena) Kennedy, who are known as toughminded and independent types. Which you wouldn't do if you wanted to undermine the paper's freedom. Would

Aren't you still, though, bound to be someezed to death by the price war? It doesn't help. The whole broadsheet market has been distorted by Murdoch's predatory pricing and continues to be so. But I sniff a change in the weather. The House of Lords amendment to the Competition Bill which deals with this was passed against the wishes of the Government. after an excellent and heated debate. Then came the great HarperCullins affair - though Chris Patten had agreed to serve on our new board before that - and the row over the Times's China coverage. As a result, in the Commons, more and more MPs on both sides have finally decided that Murdoch's unfair tactics must somehow be confronted. I hope and helieve that a useful compromise offer will come from the Government, as a result. This is a good time for The Independent to be back in fighting form. Have you learnt anything from your

Yes. First, I've got more friends than

I thought I had. Second, my children's Are you going to carry on writing like a low-rent Miles Kington?

No. Sorry. I will he back to writing straight stuff more or less immedi-

Well, that's clear enough. Now don't you think we've heard enough about you, and the paper, for a while? Yes. Yes. Quite right. Sorry. Stop apologising.

Pandora's daily diary, The Box, can be found in its new home, on page 5.

#### Bayushe's life chances...



These are the life chances of Bayushe and other children like her in Ethiopia: Living until the age of five:

Receiving proper healthcare: Having clean water to drink: 25% Being able to go to school: At World Visinn, we believe these odds ore simply

unacceptable. You can help us improve them. Sponsor n child like Bayushe, and you'll enable us to bring about real and lasting change through vital development work in her community, making it a healthier, happier place to grow up in.

Please give a child a better chance in life.

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# Julian Simon

Julian Simon will go down in history as the man who bet Paul Ehrlich, the famous author of The Population Bomb (1968), that the price of a basket of metals would go down between 1980 and 1990, and not up as those he characterised as doommongers predicted. He won: and the neo-Malthusians oever forgave him. While they were right to point out that the wager hardly measured the condition of mankind, his forthrightness in making it was breathtaking.

Simon had asserted that resources tend not to become scarce through overuse and any threat that they might merely hastens their replacement by better products. Never one to allow a sensible argument to get updated in 1996) and they enlonely for the absence of a more outrageous assertion to stand in its support, he supposed that mineral mining on the moon. would be in place before prices sky-rocketed. In a voice which rapidly alternated between deepest bass and soaring squeak, he adored displaying the obvious commonsensical hasis of an opponent's position, and then knocking it all around his room.

Simon was the Professor of Business Administration at Maryland University outside Washington from 1983. Beyond hird-watching whilst he wrote 'Simon: outrageous and read in most weathers outacademic experience in hiology. What made him unique, valuable and loathed was that he took the battle over population and resources issues line for line, graph for graph, into the opposing camp. He was a rection for ever and that the new orthodoxies were highly selective in their use of the evidence.

As the Club of Rome's Limits to Growth (1972) spawned the Global 2000 Report to the US President (1980), and the population control movement's old agenda tallied with the oew environmental and conservatioo agendas, it was Simon who produced, oot cautionary caveats, hut a mirror image to the new visions of scarcity and pollution. ingenuity of mankind in the face in Business Economics. He was

the conservationists were mostly working well beyond their real competeoce and had strayed into an area he understood better than they: numbers. He did not need to be a hiologist or a demographer to point to the evidence that helping families become richer was as quick a way to reduce their fertility as any. His work on the subject first . appeared with his paper The Effects of Income on Fertility, published in 1974 whilst he was at the University of Illinois.

At Maryland, in the post he held until his death, he developed these lines of argument in The Ultimate Resource (1981,



doors, he had no pretensions to deared him to the massive figure of Herman Kahn, of the Hudson Institute, with whom he edited a hig volume of doomhusting papers by many hands, The Resourceful Earth (1984). The support of Norman Macrae at the Economist helped these statistican who loved to point out ideas get a hearing in the UK. that graphs seldom go in one di-, but they remained deeply distrusted by most of the media.

Simon was oever content just to point out the weaknesses in the doomsters' oumbercrunching. But he was saved from a purely contrarian positioo by his messianic desire to explain how population occessity was the mother of economic and social invection. In pressing this argument to breaking point, he was truly original.

Bauer, for instance, had been saying much the same sort of thing about resource economics for years, John Maddox had excoriated the Doomsday Syndrome in his book of that title in 1972. The Danish agronomist Esther Boserup had declared in the 1960s that even primitive farmers often respond quickly to the need to feed more people. Simon's importance in this debate was in making his ideas famous at a time when fashion

was running all the other way. He loved to point out how the Low Countries of the 17th century or the Japan of the 20th had grown rich through a combination of a lack of resources and the presence of a well-, but not over-, managed market. Large populations, he said, could only be held back from economic growth by perverse governments. Above all, he propounded tirelessly the view hat more babies meant more brains. One of his last pieces of writing was for Wired magazine in January, in which he celehrated what he took to be the vast increase in shared knowledge which information technologies were bringing to the world. One of his last pieces of research insisted that amongst almost every class and type of American, educatioo levels were rising fast. It was a sign that the debate he did so much to energise is becoming more mainstream that Wired wrote an admiring profile of him, and that the makers of last year's lively Channel Four series,

Julian Simon was of a cast of mind oot much seen on this side of the Atlantic. He was a freemarket man in economics and a Libertarian in politics. His first book, How to Start and Operate a Mail-Order Business (1965) still sells and was based on his own commercial activities in the 1950s. His first degree at Harvard in 1953 was in experimeotal psychology and his PhD His pronouncements on the at the University of Chicago was

Against Nature, found him a'

valuable source of ideas.

He was well-placed to do so of rising human numbers were in advertising for several years. because he understood that seldom fresh insights. Peter He believed that the most fundameotal freedom was that of individual choice. So it was natural perhaps, wheo he turned to larger themes, that whilst he argued that rising populations of humans produced more sources of innovation and wealth than new problems, he disliked the antiabortion movement as much as he excoriated anything like state compulsion in birth control programmes.

Much the same impulses made him a titeless campaigner in newspapers and magazines on behalf of the human and economic advantages that immigrants bring to any society. . .

Simon suffered for many years with bouts of depression and he wrote Good Mood: the new psychology of overcoming depression (1993) on his notions about battling against the Black Dog. In the foreword to another book, he described how working on his upbeat themes about the human coodition had helped him in recent years.

Julian Simon did not attend synagogue, but he and his family made a point of keeping the Sabbath, during which he did no work. Even a short time spent with him was giddy and uplifting. Although engaged in heated debate, he never publicly slipped into the personal abuse some of his opponents used against him. It is said that he was emhittered for being so widely disliked for views he thought at least deserved recognition for heing humane, and it is at least odd that his formal academic field should be so different from the Cornucopianism for which his name is likely to be

Richard D. North

remembered.

Julian Lincoln Simon, economist: born Newark, New Jersey 12 February 1932; Professor of Economics and of Business Administration, University of Illinois 1969-83; Professor of Business Administration, University of Maryland, Washington DC 1983-98; married 1961 (two sons, one daughter); died Chevy Chase; Maryland 8 February 1998.



#### Ben Bowden

Ben Bowden was an amhitious and talented industrial designer. In 1946, he was the proud father of two of Britain's most talked-about new vehicles. Ironically, one was the fastest on the streets, the other so slow it bare-

ly made it off the drawing board. During the Second World War Bowden met Dooald Healey when they worked together at Humber, designing armoured vehicles. Healey, an extrovert racing driver and sports car guru, forecast massive post-war demand for fast cars. So, with their colleague Achille Sampletro engineering the chassis, and Bowden's excellent design eye, he created the Healey 2.4 - so-called because of its 2.4-litre Riley engine.

Bowden initially drew the sweeping, aerodynamic lines of the 24 oo the wall of his Coveriry house before turning them into full-scale plans and, with government permission, the car went into production in an old aircraft hangar at Warwick. Its advanced features included lightweight aluminium bodywork, plastic windows and headlamps concealed behind streamlined flaps.

Healey hit the headlines in 1947 by winding a 2.4 up to 111mph on the Jabbeke Highway in Belgium, and winning the Alpine Rally. It was something Britain could be proud of in a

gloomy post-war world - its first post-war 100mph production car - even if the £2,723 price for the saloon made it strictly a rich man's pleasure.

Yet Bowden's driving passion lzy in his attempts to revolutionise the proletarian push hike, and at the flag-waving 1946 "Britain Can Make It" exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum, the public were amazed at his "Bicycle of the Future".

Although Bowden claimed in his patent that his main intention was to "provide improvement of aesthetic and practical character" in pedal cycles, it was a radical departure in construction terms. Instead of a framework of welded tubes, it consisted of two, mirror-image pressed-steel halves joined together to form a hollow "body", with a fully enclosed front mudguard. Its sculpted curves recalled the 1930s American streamlining craze, but the bike contained innovations like drive from pedals to rear wheel by steel shaft instead of chain; this meant the rear wheel could be removed simply by pulling

There was suspension for the front fork, and batteries bidden. inside the bike's frame powered lights, a horn, even a built-in radio. A locker under the seat concealed a pump and tools. British bike manufacturers

out its spindle.

proved too set in their tyre tracks to put Bowden's revolutionary bike into productino, however. A plan to manufacture it in South Africa came to nought and, in frustration, he left

for the United States in 1949. It wasn't until 1960 that Bowden's hicycle went into production there, christened the Spacelander and huilt in glass fibre by his own company. There was a choice of seven colours including pink, but the shaft drive was replaced by a

convectional chain. Advertised as a plaything for youthful persons of all ages", the Bowden now looked somewhat dated, and only 522 had been made when the parent company went bust.

Now highly prized and worth over £6,000 each, they are also rare: when one was selected for the Royal College of Art's "Make or Break" show in 1986. Paul Clark of Brightoo University had to make a replica guided only by photos. Pressed-steel frames were

later adopted by Italy's Vespa for scooters and Japan's Honda for mopeds, contriboting to the large world-wide boom in cheap, mass-produced motorcycles throughout the 1950s and 1960s.

Bowden was born in North Kensington in 1906 and, despite music training as a violinist at

gineering from the Regent Street Polytechnic and worked as a designer in car bodybuilding.

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eding spree

By the god of the 1930s he was chief body engineer at the Rootes Group's Humber factory in Coventry. The London studies of the industrial designer Raymond Loewy were often consulted when Humber cars were restyled, and this relationship inspired Bowden, with a partner. John Allen, to establish his own industrial design company in Learnington Spa, a picturesque stone's throw from the car industry's West Midlands heartland. It was one of the first companies of its type in Britain.

Allen-Bowden designed everything from forklift trucks to Avery scales. In 1948 Bowden became a member of the Society of Industrial Artists.

After emigrating to the US, Ben Bowdeo enjoyed a wideraoging career as a freelance product designer, at one time developing an ingenious modular construction method for the Willys Jeep. Somehow, though, he never got over the commercial failure of his bicycle. He spent his final years in retirement in Florida. .

. ... Gifes Chapman Benjamin George Bówden, Industrial designer: born London 3 June 1906; married (four children); died Lake the Guildhall, graduated in en- Worth, Florida 6 Morch 1998.

#### Patriarch Karekin Kazanjian

Patriarch Karekin II was for Catholicos in Armenia. Last Denearly eight years the spiritual cember it ordered the Patriarleader of Turkey's much-de- chate to disband its council of pleted Armenian community. lay advisers. Meanwhile, Is-Now numbering some 60,000, it lamic extremists have attacked is the largest Christian minority in the country.

Although the Armenian Patriarchate was founded in the city back in 1461, the Istanhul area is the last remaining place in to- Kazanjian in Istanhul in 1927, day's Turkey with an Armenian population. The executions and forced expulsions of the eotire Armenian population of Anatolia between 1894 and 1915 saw the deaths of more than one mil- St James's seminary. In 1945 he lion Armenians. This legacy still hangs heavily over the Patriarchate in the Kumkapi district of Istanbul, from where Karekin led his flock.

difficult task of negotiating with the Turkish authorities over the church's rights while at the same time having to seek protection from them against at-. tacks on the church by Islamic Armenian secondary schools extremists. The government and served as a teacher and maintains strict restrictions on principal at the Patriarchate's ministrator of St James's Semthe church's activities, as it clergy school. The Holy Cross does of all Christian churches. Seminary was finally opened in It closed the Holy Cross Armenian seminary in 1971 and re- Karekin became dean. From fuses to allow the rebuilding of. 1957 to 1959 he served as an church premises. In 1995 it NCO in the Turkish armed banned lay delegates from participating in elections for a new United States to become priest his homeland, Karekin faced his Istanbul 10 March 1998.

the Patriarchate and a numberof churches in the past few years. Such a predicament called for firmness and diplomacy.

Karekin was born Bedros and received his elementary ed acation at Armenian schools Jerusalem at the age of 13 to prepare for religious ministry at was ordained deacoo and in 1950 a celibate priest. While preparing for ordination he

taught in a number of schools. As patriarch, he had the Patriarch, Karekin Khachadourian, he returned to Istanhul in December 1951 to help triarchate. While plans were tak-Uskudar in January 1954 and forces before being sent to the



in the city before being sent to Kazanjian: defended the Armenian community in Turkey

of an Armenian parish in Washington DC.

consecrated hishop by the head 'of the Patriarchate'in Istanbul of the worldwide Armenian under very difficult circum-Church, Catholicos Vazgen, At the invitation of the then and was appointed Patriarchal was able to develop working re-Legate to the Far East, Later. he was elected Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Australia establish a seminary for the Pa- and New Zealand. In 1980, he returned, to Jerusalem and . While oot a charismatic figure, ing shape he taught at two served as the Grand Sacristan of the Patriarchate, the second in command; also serving as adinary. Karekin was elected 83rd Patriarch of Istanbul in September 1990 on the death of Pa-

triarch Shnork Kaloustian. While much of his ministry was spent in the diaspora away from the restrictive conditions of

greatest challenges on returning home as patriarch. But he suc To November 1966 he was cessfully administered the affairs stances. During his tenure, he lations with the Turkish govemment and defend, as much as possible, the rights of the Armenian community in Turkey. he was liked and respected by the local Armenian community.

Felix Corley

Bedros Kazanjian - (Patriarch ·Karekin), priest: born Istanbul 18 May 1927; ordained deacon 1945, priest 1950; Primate of Australia and New Zealand 1966-81; Grand Socristan, Jerusalem 1981-90; 83rd Patriorch of Istanbul 1990-98; died

#### **Edith Rudinger**

pioneers of the approachable, accurate and tigorously verified consumer information that gave Which? and its publications great success and a reputation

for independence. She joined the fledgling Consumers' Association in 1957 as Secretary to the Council of Management, helped to choose. the first director, and settled into a career that involved many jobs imtil she retired in 1988. It was as the Editor of Consumer Publications, the Association's book publishing activity, from 1962, that she set her stamp of high standards and integrity on practical information to help lay readers cope with those hurdles of life which are often. and mystifyingly, the province of professionals who hold all the

cards of knowledge. Her approach was idiosyncratic. She commissioned each book from an "expert" hut she regarded the manuscript as a jumping off point. Drafts were word and sentence by sentence, incorporating information provided by the consultants, huntthat the end result was a book degree in Opera Studies until that combined informatioo without ambiguity. Nothing was allowed to go in that did not meet her severe standards.

Her first collaboration was with a young lawyer then working for the Inland Revenue, David Tench (who later joined the Association as its energetic campaigning legal advisor), The Law for Consumers (1962), and The Law for Motorists (1963) were the first titles. They were followed by Wills and Probate (1967), The Legal Side of Buying a House (1965) and What to Do When Someone Dies (1969); all approachable, all appreciated and therefore best-sellers. These last three are still, in their constantly np-dated versions, stable reference books.

Edith Rudinger came to England from Czechoslovakia in 1939 as a child refugee, under the auspices of the Quaker Society of Friends. A degree in philosophy at St Andrews, sent our to consultants, and then . marriage to Hugh Gray in 1954, the book was reworked word by. a career at the Consumers' Association lasting over 30 years. a law degree in 1978, followed by a diploma in criminal law, cupations of consumerism should

Edith Rudinger was one of the ing down more if occessary, so and three years working for a her last illness, provide only a glimpse of her sparkle, vivacity, wisdom and erudition.

Conversation with her was fascinating. She managed to attend almost every interesting opera, play, concert and exhibition. When Hugh became Labour MP for Yarmouth in 1966, they bought a cottage there and she gave him every support. She loved Venice and they had an apartment there which they visited as often as possible. In retirement, when Hugh was International Secretary of the Theosophical Society, they made a winter visit to India every year.

Her health ofteo caused her complained or showed self pity; sometimes in severe pain she would close her office door and lie down on the floor, only to get up again in half an hour with apparently renewed energy. Often first in the office and last to leave when a deadline demanded it,

her energy was astonishing. It may seem incongruous that someone so cosmopolitan and so little concerned with the preoc-



have established the stable of practical books that characterise the Which? publications. Yet it is typical of Edith Rudinger's generosity of spirit that she wanted to demystify formidable subjects for unformidable people so that they could meet on reliably equal much discomfort; but she never terms. She, such a joyous searcher after knowledge, maintained that approachable information gave people the power they needed to take control of situations that affected their lives. Her job was to do the work that made knowledge accessible.

Rosemary McRobert

Edith Esther Rudinger, consumer offairs editor: born Vienna 2 March 1925; married 1954 Hugh Gray; died London 28 February 1998.

#### BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

MITCHELL: Malcolm 1926-1998. Musician, composer, co-founder Musician, composer, co-founder MMA/HP: ICM Loving and adored husband, father and grandfather. On 9 March, peacefully, after bravely and beautifully coping with his long illness. In tribute, donations to 5t Wilfred's Hospice, cm Reynolds, Funeral Directors, 31 High Street, Bognor Regulations, West Susser PO21 1RR.

MORROCCO: At Ninewells Hospital, Dundee on Tuesday to March 1998, Alberto Morrocco, RSA OBE, Dearly beloved hishand of Vera, much loved father of Leon, Lamie and Lisa, a loving grandfather and dear brother of Val. Funeral Service at Long-forgan Parish Church on Monday 16 March at 1.45pm. Family flowers and the service at Long-forgan Parish Church on Monday 16 March at 1.45pm. Family flowers only please, but donations in lieu if desired may be made to cancer re-search at the church.

For BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, sa telephone 0171-293 2012.

#### **Birthdays**

Baroness Amos, former chief execntive, Equal Opportunities Com-mission, 44; Mr Walter Annenberg, publisher and former ambassador to Britain, 90; Lord Borrie, QC, former director-general of Fair Trading, 67; Mr Terence Brady, playwright, nov-elist and actor, 59; Sir Terence Burns; permanent secretary, HM Treasury, 54; Lord Butterworth, former Vice-Chancellor, Warwick University, 80; Sir Michael Checkland, former di-rector-general of the BBC, 62; Miss Lesley Collier, ballerina, 51; Mr Lionel Friend, conductor, and musical director, Nexus Opera, 53; Mr Christopher Gable, actor and ballet dancer, 58; Sir Graham Hart, permanent secretary, Departme Health, 58: Sir Robert Mark, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, 81; Mr James Marshall MP, 57; Sir Henry Nevile, former Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, 78; Dr David Peace, glass engraver, and town planner, 85; Air Commodore Helen Renton, former director, WRAF, 67; Mr Neil Sedaka, song-

writer and singer, 59; Mr Jim Slater, author and former chairman, Slater

Walker Securities, 69; Lord Thomas nf Gresford QC, a Recorder of the Crown Court, 61; Mr Peter Viggers MP. 60.

Anniversaries Births: Dr Joseph Priestley, scientist and ciergyman, 1733; Charles Grey, Second Earl, former prime minister, 1764; Daniel Lambert, fat man who weighed over 52 stones (728 lb or 330 kg), 1770; Karl Friedrich Schinkel, architect and painter, 1781: Percival Lowell, astronomer, 1855; Hugo Wolf, composer, 1860; Ramon Sir Hugh Seymour Walpole, novel-ist, 1884; Henry Hathaway, film director, 1898: George Seferis (Giorgos Stylianou Seferiades), Greek poet and diplomat, 1900. Deaths: Itar Alexander II of Rustia, assassinated, 1881; Benjamin Harrison, 23rd President of the US, 1901; Major Frederick George Jackson, Arctic explorer, 1938; Thomas (Ren) Mann, trade union leader, 1941; Angela Brazil, girls' school-story writer, 1947; Winston Churchill, novelist, 1947; John Middleton Murry, author, 1957; Robert Cecil Romer Mangh-am, Second Viscount (Robin Mangh-

am), novelist, 1981. On this day: the Yorkists defeated the Lancastrians at the Battle of Stamford, 1470; the French Huguenots were defeated at the Battle of Jamac, 1569; as pre-dicted by Halley in 1682, Halley's Comet came to its perihelion, 1758; the planet Uranus was discovered by Sir William Herschel, 1781; Standard time was established in the US, 1884; General Roberts captured Bloemfontein, South Africa, 1900; Austria was declared to be part of the German Reich (the Anschluss), and was renamed "Ostmark", 1938. Today is the Feast Day of St Ansovimis, St Etiphrasia or Euprasia, S Gerald of Mayo, St Heldrad, St Mochoemoc, St Nicephorus of Con-stantinople and Saints Roderic and

Lectures

Salomon

Victoria & Albert Museum: Wandy Williams, "Baroque Sculpture" 2.30pm.

School of Oriental and African Studies, London WC1: Professor Andrew Harding, "Public Law vs Comparative Law: the match of the (21st) century", 5.30pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Dules of York, Patron, Rousd Square, visits the Rousd Square European Regional Conference at Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire, Prince Edward, Patron, The Royal Exchange Theatre Company, visits the theatre's offices and attends a performance of Animal Crackers, Manchester, The Dules of Colleges Butter Bothers 1000 VIEW. mai Crackers, Manchester, The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, ICOMOS UK (In-ternational Council on Monuments and Sites), attends a conference at the RIBA headquarters, Portland Place, London

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavairy Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at
Horse Guards, Uam.

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath

begins in London at 5.47pm. United Synagogues: 081-343 8989. Fed-Uniced Synagogues: 081-343 byer, reg-eration of Synagogues: 081-202 2253, Union of Liberal and Prograssive Syna-gogues: 077-389 life3, Reform Synagogues of Great British: 0815-349 4731, Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congrugation: 077-289 2573, New London Synagogue (Masorti): 677-328 1624. 6171-328 1024

#### CALLS TO THE BAR: HILARY TERM 1998

Lincoln's Iran

Peter John Cooker Julien Robert Smith; Linda Angela Turnbult; Drawida Maram Supajush;
Khurrara Alex Mehtha; Rupetr Outnory
Choat; Dr Jonathun Lee Black-Branch;
David Walker; Teck Hock Lee; Peter
Josathan Lockley, Auny Karn Schiet; Uchae
Curistian Juseph-Njoku; Shien Chine, Neo;
Zeiben Nases Alam; Miss Lydia Esther
Mankail Bain; Marthew Stephen Backtand;
Neola Helen Boset; Farle Karlm Chowdhuy;
Ramziche Abdul Rathman; Fathium Feiza
Markar; Evangados Christopher Apostolon;
Dayangha Nina Jasmine Bahrin; James
Michael Allport; Stephanie Mary Pyrun;
Andsisew Rakman; Ann Potrima Abel; Miss
Smith Elizabeth Mills; Andrew David Shew;
Yeck Leng Ee; Shaon Wickner; Edrise
Mansajang Sasoho; Tharesa Jacqueline Hatlour; Fathmah Hisew Yen Won; Emily Bridget
Ellen Wood; David Kenyon-Vaughan;
Stephen Devid Comor, Nichola James Honrold; Lee Gledfull; Simon John French;
Shaiba Ilyas; Nell Robert Gamble; Paro
Richard Werburken; Briam McMurrough
Kengan; Alexander James Camerou;
Françoise Charlotte Binet; Valeria Frances
Sweeting Michael Marc Ronzn; David Ng
Wai Choong; Mahmud Riad Amseen,
Iranes\* Terriple

Inner Temple David Alexader Wi Wilson Liewellyn; Edwin

Douglas Lincoin Semuci; Androulla Sotiris
Hadjutinou, Uthra Devi Rajgopat; Gabriele
Shaw, Andrew Charles John Yale; Jouanhan
Müchelt; Julier Shayon Quashie; Saidou Abdoulie N'Dow, Thomas Ashley Coghlin;
Catherine Bress Multernius; Gary Leo
Geinsthaw; Margaret Christine Gaurcher;
William Fabirn Ryan; Patrick; John Goodult
Douald William Machui; Alistair Robert
Henry; Kenneth John Grant.

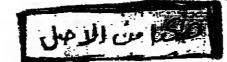
Middle Temple

Middle Terriple
Yena Barlay, Maria Elena Candilio; Robin
Demis Chapman; Beverly Jan Roberts;
Michael Edward Joseph Ruben Mulcahy;
Yen Kwong Chan; Victoria Anna Williams;
Sara Kate Genter; Siobhan Angela Mullay;
Mohinder Rumar Sadheara; Arma Maria Alfonsina Venturino; Kala Malar Genkutharan; Mohammad Javed Armi; Carohne
Jane Penneds: Brandan Halligan; Benoellet
Gilles Frederick Peers; Stehn R. Liban; Jon
Edward Dantel 'Ewmley: Rachel Elizabeth
Bastin; Jane Anna Howard; Amarick Singh
Gill; Kerry Campbell; Michael Boyd Desine;
Lim Mark Cooper; Al Lect Tang: Michael
Wai Yen Chong; Rusalind Mary O'Sullivan;
Karen Tanya Walton; Oiane Omolola
Asekan; Hugh Desmond Balae, James;
Nabil Rafig; Celia Saini Chaire; Resurd; Ruth
Roberta Elizabeth Cabeza; Andrew Elicune
De Mestre; Paul Justin Woolpar; Caroline h Cabeze; Andrew Ettenne Justin Woolgar; Caroline

Aun wayman, Annen enranetti McMahan, Jacqueline Anne Catherine Dinue-Lisy-ward; Louise Jane Palmer; Brian Adam Simpson: Cho Man Tsui; Prabalaran Chun-drakesan; Nashah Bashah; Jonathan Simon Schwarz; David Webster; James Hayden

Gray's Inn

Jonathan Mare Law, Desmond Paul Hed, cy, Freda Elizabeth Cranfickt; Grace Wai Yi Hale; Pauline Mary Swan; David Roy Whit-Haie; Pauline Mary Serm; Dawid Roy Whatney, John Michael Luck; Ian Russell Toylor;
Olarcini Rushidar, Abreno Alarhegur, Leshe
Andrew Branningham; Elizabeth Cameron
Campbell; Arnold James Tirdd; Pamela
Mukundsho Jack Lunida Adenomur; Carolme Sarah Ward, Wayne Hall, Paleram; Yan
Yew Teck; Martyn Handam; Bira Antonia
Maria Psailir, Paul Louis Anthum Harge;
John Michael Edward Demo Smath, Giec Rudward Fernande; Charles Be nechetus
Alexander Quiney; Ellie UTiorde; Sanon
John Reed; Rahal William Bifloris Grant Lan
Graham Smalt; Kierun Michael lied; Citte
Il Monian Simpone; Carl Lowling; Hhupinder Kum Kidhu; Speda Shazia I Iadaki Napri,
Melanic Doniae Simpone, Sason Lom I Iron;
Angela Catherine Anne Austur; Nogel
Geurge Havard; Esson Gwulon McKerninck,
Pang Moon Kwan; John Eatmand Beutton
Rubb.



BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

# Pension sales costs could reach £11bn

THE FINANCIAL SERVICES watchdog yesterday revealed that the cost of sorting ont the pensions mis-selling scandal could reach £11bn - almost three times early estimates.

the Financial Services Authority (FSA), launched the second phase of the mis-selling review. So far, financial watchdogs have concentrated only on the most urgeot cases. Now the regulators have turned their attention to the less urgeot cases - most of which involve the uoder 35s - and have issued a consultation paper which sets out how to take the process forward.

Mr Davies reckons the second phase of the review will cover as many as 1.8 million investors - around 300,000 more than previously thought. The FSA estimates that pension mis-selling could have cost members of this second class of investors between £2,250 and £12,000 each.

Helen Liddell, ecooomic secretary to the Treasury, said she found it "alarming" that so many people could be affected by the second stage of the peo-

Ms Liddell's tough approach to the mis-selling scandal in recent months is believed to have been instrumental in spurring heels and progress was imped-

pension companies into action.

The financial services regulators began their review of pensions mis-selling back in 1994 amid growing concern that investors could have been wroogly persuaded to switch Howard Davies, head of from occupational pension schemes into personal pension plans. The regulators initially concentrated their efforts on "priority cases" - typically people at or near retirement and investors who had died before receiving recompense.

The regulators soon realised that the scope of the scandal was far greater than first thought. The first phase of the pensions review eventually covered 640,000 people and is likely to cost the pensions industry a total of £4.5bn. Phase one is "now approaching completion", according to Mr Davies.

Mr Davies plans to launch a multi-million pound advertising campaign to raise public awareoess of the second and final phase of the campaign. He said the campaign would be paid for by the pensions industry "either oo a voluntary basis or by regulatory levy".

The FSA chief added that he hoped progress in phase two of the review would be far faster than phase one. When the scandal first broke, pensioo companies initially dragged their

ed by extensive legal wrangling

Under the terms of the consultation paper launched by obliged to write to affected investors and ask them to provide some basic details about their case. Companies will also have to chase investors who fail to respond and provide a preliminary assessment of the extent of the problem by the end of March

At that point, the FSA will then set targets for each pension company for completing their reviews, and will monitor progress on a regular basis. As in the first phase of the review, companies which fall behind schedule could be "named or shanged or may find themselves facing hefty fines. In addition, from the summer, the regulatory bodies will have extra powers to har directors from conducting business in the financial services industry.

Total costs of this second phase are likely to range between £3.8bn and £6.5bn, Mr Davies said. Most - if not all pension companies have yet to make financial provisions for dealing with this second tranche

The industry broadly welcomed FSA's move. Companies have notil 15 May to respond to the consultation document.



Outlook, page 25 jacquetta Bath, who was persuaded to switch from her NHS pension scheme to a private one Photograph. Glynn Griffiths

#### Salesman's patter proved persuasive

JACQUETTA Bath, a 33-yearnld ourse, says she wishes she'd known more about pensions when she was approached by a salesman from a pensions company back in 1988, write Lea Paterson and Andrew Verity.

Someone was talking to my husband about a pension and when the salesman had finished he turned to me and asked whether I had thought about changing schemes," she said.

Mrs Bath, a mother-of-two had been a member of the NHS scheme since 1983. At the time, she did not realise her employer contributed to her occupational pension scheme. As a result. she found the salesman's natter extremely persuasive.

"He said his scheme was better and the fund would have grown higger by the time I retired." Mrs Rath remembered being impressed by the fact she could continue to contribute to the company's scheme if she took a career break and if she decided to change employers.

Convinced she was doing the right thing, Mrs Bath switched into the private scheme in 1988. It was only a few years ago that she began to question the wisdom of her decision.

Her union put her in contact with the Personal Investment Authority, the pensions watchdog, which advised her to switch back to her occupational pension scheme. She stopped her payments to the company, and began contributing to the NHS scheme two years ago.

Mrs Bath is still waiting for

Rolls-Royce and BAe

boosted as Battle

lifts foreign ceiling

#### Fighting talk as GKN goes on £Ibn by Peter Thal Larson unaffected, Man teorial cancer of spending spree

By Michael Harrison

GKN, the automotive, defence and industrial services group, yesterday said it had £Ibn to spend on acquisitions and confirmed that it has held exploratory talks about merging its Westland helicopters business with Agusta of Italy.

The group also said it expected to hear by the end of the month whether it had been selected for a £4bn contract to build a new generation of "battlefield taxis" for the British and Germao armies and other European defence forces.

An Angio-German consortium led by GKN is favourite to win the contract in preference to Team International, a rival consortium including Vickers and Alvis of the UK and German and French partners. CK Chow, GKN's chief ex-

ecutive, said the discussions about a helicopter merger with Agusta, Westland's partner on the EH101 programme had been "preliminary". But he udded: "We work well together and it would not be illogical to look at a joint relationship with Agusta in the future."

A combination of Westland and Agusta would create a helicopter group with sales of about £1hn, of which the UK company would contribute about two-thirds.

Mr Chow indicated that GKN would concentrate on building up its three main di- stocks in response to the visions through organic growth

STOCK MARKETS

or bolt-on acquisitions, saying it could finance £1bn-worth of takeover deals without having to raise further equity capital. The three main areas in which it is looking for acquisitions are powder metallurgy, off-highway vehicles products and aerospace structures. Last year GKN acquired eight husinesses at a cost of £462m, including Sinter Metals of the

The order for battlefield taxis -or Multi-Role Armoured Vehicles as they are known would be worth £2bn to GKN, which has a 50 per cent stake in the consortium. The British, German and other European armies have a requirement for 7,000 vehicles with deliveries starting in 2004. The export potential could be the same

The winning consortium could form the basis for a restructuring of Europe's military vehicles industry. Mr Chow said Europe had 20 manufacturers compared with just two in the US and rationalisation would be needed to improve its competitiveoess.

He was speaking as GKN unveiled a 12 per cent increase in pre-tax profits before exceptionals to £406m. Although the results were at the top end of expectations and were accompanied by a hullish outlook, GKN shares slipped 17p to 1493 as dealers sold off "export" strengthening pound.

#### British Biotech suspends research director

THE CITY's confidence in British Biotech suffered the drugs group, which is developing a cure for cancer, confirmed that it had suspended Dr Andrew Millar, its director of clinical research. pending an investigation of breaches in company policy".

British Biotech shares closed the day down 15.5p at 70p, a two-year low. The company was forced to make its statement after the news had leaked out, prompting investors to speculate that the company's clinical trials had hit problems.

In its statement, the company insisted that its development programmes were

ffected. Marimastat, its poteotial cancer cure, is currently undergoing final stage III dinical trials while Zacutex, deanother blow yesterday after veloped to treat acute pancreatitis, is also close to hitting the market. British Biotech said it "continues to be encouraged by the progress of its clinical

> Sources close to the company said Dr Millar was sent home on Wednesday after it was alleged that he had been discussing the company's research programmes with outsiders.

The company has launched an investigation over the supply of information about British Biotech's progress to investors. Dr Millar has been at the company since 1992, and had regularly taken part in presen-

ations to investors and analysis The company said there was no evidence that Dr Millar had profited from inside information. He is understood to have

been unhappy at British Biotech since the company made Dr Peder Jensen its development director and chief medical officer in January. Dr Millar ap- a series of upsets in the past few plied for the job hnt was not selected

Dr Jensen sits oo the main board and is responsible for all the company's research and clinical development. He is also Dr Millar's boss.

If Dr Millar leaves the company, he will be the third highprofile departure from British Biotech's senior management team in the past two years. Earlier Peter Lewis, the research finance director, had resigned. Analysts said Dr Miliar han-

dled the company's relationships with clinical research laboratories. Those contacts will have to be rebuilt by his British Biotech has suffered

years. In 1996, the company's shares soured to 326p as it almost became the first biotech company to eoter the FTSE 100 index of leading companies. However, management departures and setbacks in clinical trials dragged the shares back. Last month, its shares lost 30 per

and Kickers in an effort to in-

crease margins across the group.

of the business undertaken by An-

drew Rubin, the new chief exec-

utive of Pentland, who replaced

his father in the role last autumn.

a shake up of its loss making US

fashion footwear business. It is

sacking 60 people and closing

an office in New York at a cost

of £3.9m in an effort to guide

the divisioo back into profit.

Pentland announced an 11 per

ceot rise in pre-tax profits to

£40.5m despite a disappointing

performance at Berghaus, best

known for its outdoor clothing,

which suffered due to abnor-

The group also announced

The move is part of a review

ceot of their value wheo a European industry regulator put an application to market Zacutex on hold

#### By Michael Harrison SHARES in British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce rose vesterday

after the Government confirmed that it is lifting the ceiling oo foreign shareholdings in the two companies from 29.5 per cent to 49.5 per cent. However, John Battle, the

lodustry Minister, also announced that there would be a new limit of 15 per cent on individual foreign shareholdings in each of the companies.

The new limits will be enforced through the indefinite "golden share" that the Goverument holds in BAe and

The increase in the ceilings was long-awaited and followed an intensive lobbying campaign by BAe and Rolls who argued that the restriction limited the marketability of their shares and depressed their share prices.

The request for a limit on individual shareholdings was contained in the joint application put to the Department of Trade and Industry by the two companies in July although it is understood that BAe would have preferred there to be no limits a single foreign shareholder at all, either on overall or individual foreign shareholdings.

to vote on the increase in the shareholder ceilings at the annual meetings of BAe and Rolls, due to held respectively oo 29 April and 28 May.

Shareholders will be asked

promote the competitiveness of these companies by increasing their freedom to operate commercially in the world markets".

Rolls chairman, Sir Ralph Robins, said the changes were consistent with the increasingly international nature of its business. Three quarters of its sales are exports or are generated outside the UK.

In recent weeks both companies have been purling up against their 29.5 per cent ceilings in anticipation that the limits would be lined.

The current level of foreign ownership in BAe is 29.14 per cent while Rolls is 27 per cent foreign owned, At privatisatioo in 1985 for BAe and 1987 for Rolls the limit on foreign ownership was set at 15 per cent. It was raised to the current level in 1989 after a number of forced sales after foreign shareholders had breached the limit.

A DTI spokeswoman said that to have raised the overall limit to 49.5 per cent but oot to have imposed a lower ceiling on individual shareholdings would have defeated the object since would have been able to gain an effective controlling shareholding without occding to bid for either company.

Rolls shares closed 14p higher at 268.5p on the news while BAe shares ended the day 20p up nt 1935p. BAe said the Mr Battle said the relaxation increase in the limit would give in the ceilings was "designed to it all the flexibility it needed.

#### John Lewis staff get annual bonus bonanza thanks to windfall effect

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

STAFF at John Lewis Partnership are to enjoy their highest annual bonuses since the retail boom of the late 1980s, as the company announced a sharp increase in profits boosted by the effects of last year's building society windfalls.

Each of the 37,500 workers, from board level to the shop floor, will receive a bonus of 22 per cent of salary, up from 20 per cent last year. This equates to £1,760 for the group's shopfloor workers who typically earn around £8,000 a year and £62,700 for Stuart Hampson, the chairman, who was paid society bonanza.

£285,000 last year. The boouses are the highest at John Lewis since the record year of 1989 when they reached 24 per cent.

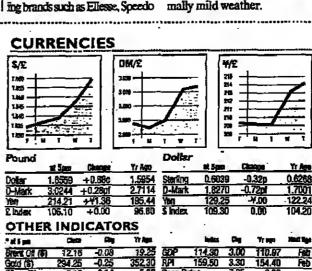
However, the company warned the retail climate would be more hostila this year with higher interest rates already dampening consumer demand. "Squalls rather than windfalls [are] predicted for the year ahead," Mr Hampson said. Hc added that next week's budget ought to be neutral for consumers for this reason.

John Lewis' pre-tax profits rose 15 per cent to £250m in the year to January, helped by strong sales of home furnishings as a result of the building

#### Pony pulls the plug on Premier League football sponsorship

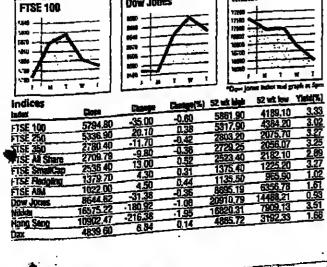
PREMIER LEAGUE football clubs Tottenham Hotspur, West Ham and Southamptoo will be forced to look for new kit sponsors after a decision by Pony, the sportswear firm, to withdraw from the sponsorship market. Pentland, the group which owns the brand, has decided to exit the market after intense competition caused a rapid inflation insponsorship costs. It will honour existing contracts but will not seek to renew them. Teams such as

Norwich, Oldham and Huddersfield will also be affected. Pentland is choosing to concentrate its investment on leading brands such as Ellesse, Speedo



#### TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars) 2.3828 italy (lira) 2,899 Austria (schillings) 20,60 210.53 Japan (yen) Belgium (francs) 60.57 Malta (lira) 0.6343 Canada (\$) 2.2629 Netherlands (guilders) 3,3014 Cyprus (pounds) 0.8531 Norway (kroner) 12.77 Denmark (kroner) 11.24 Portugal (escudos) 298.28 Finland (markka) 8.9669 248.16 Spain (pesetas) France (francs) South Africa (rand) 9.8370 7,8835 Germany (marks) 2,9437 Sweden (kroner) Greece (drachmei 464.56 Switzerland (francs) 2,3952 Hong Kong (\$) 12.39 Turkey (lira) 374,110 reland (punts) 1.1776 USA (\$) 1.611 Source: Thomas Cook



INTEREST RATES US long beed UK 18 year off MAIN PRICE CHANGES

#### Nasdaq and Amex in merger talks

By David Usborne in New York

MORE usually accustomed to tracking the mergers and acquisitions of the worlds' corporations - and profiting from them - Wall Street found itself distracted by the prospect of a marriage altogether closer to home yesterday.

Nasdaq and the American Stock Exchange (Amex) confirmed they were in discussions about a merger that would betmight of the largest of the Wall Street markets, the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

Details were not available, but the talks appeared to be at an advanced stage. Several obstacles remained, however. Both markets would have to persuade their own memberships to vote in favour of the

While a merger may offer togic in terms of challenging to

tween two starkly different trading systems, histories and

The Amex dates back to kers of the last century and only moved indoors in 1921. Like the NYSE, it still trades on a floor carved a niche in derivatives.

Nasdaq, by contrast, is young ter equip them to take on the and brash. Formed in 1971 by the National Association of Securities Dealers, it trades via a computer-dealer network and has no actual trading floor. It has specialised in attracting high technology issues like Microsoft and Intel

> merger would "combine the hest features of the Amex's auction market with NASD's electronic market".

In recent years, the Amex in gether at \$9.4 trillion.

the overwhelmingly dominant particular has struggled to keep NYSE it would also be one be- momentum. Its listings have fallen in number from 1,004, 20 years ago, to 771 at the end of last year. Moreover, while the Amex trades an average of 24 the out-door curbstone bro-million shares a day, that compares with about half a billion for the NYSE.

In its 27 years, the Nasdaq through "open-cry" auction. It has grown furiously and sucremains best-known for energy cessfully built its image as home stocks, although recently it has to the hi-tech stocks. It has been wounded by regulatory problems, however, and was forced in 1996 to spend \$100m (£61m) in upgrading its systems after an investigation into possible fraud by its brokers.

Even together, the Nasdaq and Amex will have trouble escaping the NYSE's shadow. The combined market value of In a statement, Amex said a the companies listed with them, for example, would total about \$2 trillion. The NYSE, however, already has companies with valued to-



#### Reuters in strong denial of fraud claim

REUTERS yesterday rejected as "completely without foundation" fraud claims made by a Swiss software house in a New York lawsuit.

In a statement, Reuters said it received confirmation late on Wednesday of the suit filed by All-Media-Typlan AG in the US District Court against Reuters Ltd and Reuters America Inc.

"The dispute simply involves the interpretation of a complex contractual situation, which has no substantive connection to Reuters America Inc or the United States," Reuters said.

News of the dispute comes just weeks after it emerged that a federal grand jury was investigating whether a unit of Reuters had stolen information

from Bloomberg.
It said the dispute involves two Typian contracts, one with Reuters Ltd. a UK corporation, which is governed by English law, and one with Reuters SA, a Swiss Corporation, which is governed by Swiss law.

#### Legal & General shares fall as takeover rumours denied

Shares in Legal & General, the insurer, shed almost 3 per cent yesterday as the company poured cold water on recent takeover rumours. The stock closed at 658.5p, 19p down on the day. David Prosser, chief executive, said the management would defend the company's independence. He added that Legal & General was unlikely to attract bids because of its high share price. The insurer reported operating profits for the year to December of £350m, up 20 per cent, and towards the top end of City expectations. The dividend per share was increased by 14 per cent to 12.7 pence.

#### Banks 'need 3 years for EMU'

The Bank of England has made its first attempt to set out the implications for the retail banks of UK participation in Emu. In its quarterly report, Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro, the Bank says retail banks would need at least 3 years to develop systems capable of handling euro notes and coin. John Townend, deputy director at the Bank, said that fund management and insurance companies, previously chastised by the Bank for being insufficiently prepared for the euro, were beginning to make significant progress.

#### Big Six merger approved

The proposed merger between Big Six accounting firms Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse has been cleared by the US competition authorities - boosting the two organisations' hopes that the plan to create the world's largest professional services firm will soon be approved by the European Commission. The move comes just weeks after KPMG and Ernst & Young abandoned their plan to form an even larger practice citing regulatory problems as one of the reasons for not proceeding.

#### Airbus nets \$1.8bn orders

Airbus Industrie yesterday landed a further batch of orders worth \$3bn (£1.5bn). The Belgian carrier Sabena is buying 34 narrow-bodied A320 jets in a deal worth \$1.8bn while Swissair confirmed an order for nine of the new long-range Airbus A340-600 jets valued at \$1.3bn.

#### Rugby boost to BAA

The Scotland-France rugby international at Murrayfield helped boost passenger numbers at BAA's Edinburgh airport by 17 per cent last month. The group, which owns Heathrow and Gatwick, recorded a 6.7 per cent increase in overall traffic levels at its seven UK airports in February. The fastest growth was in the European charter market where passenger numbers rose 12.6 per cent year-on-year. Traffic levels on North Atlantic routes rose 11.7 per cent.

#### **BA** challenged on route

British Midland is to challenge British Airways monopoly over the London-Warsaw route later this month. The Civil Aviation Authority has agreed to hold an expedited hearing on 23 March into BM's application to start a service. BA and LOT, the Polish airline, operate a code-share agreement and carve up all capacity on the route between them.

#### Hollick looks to expand

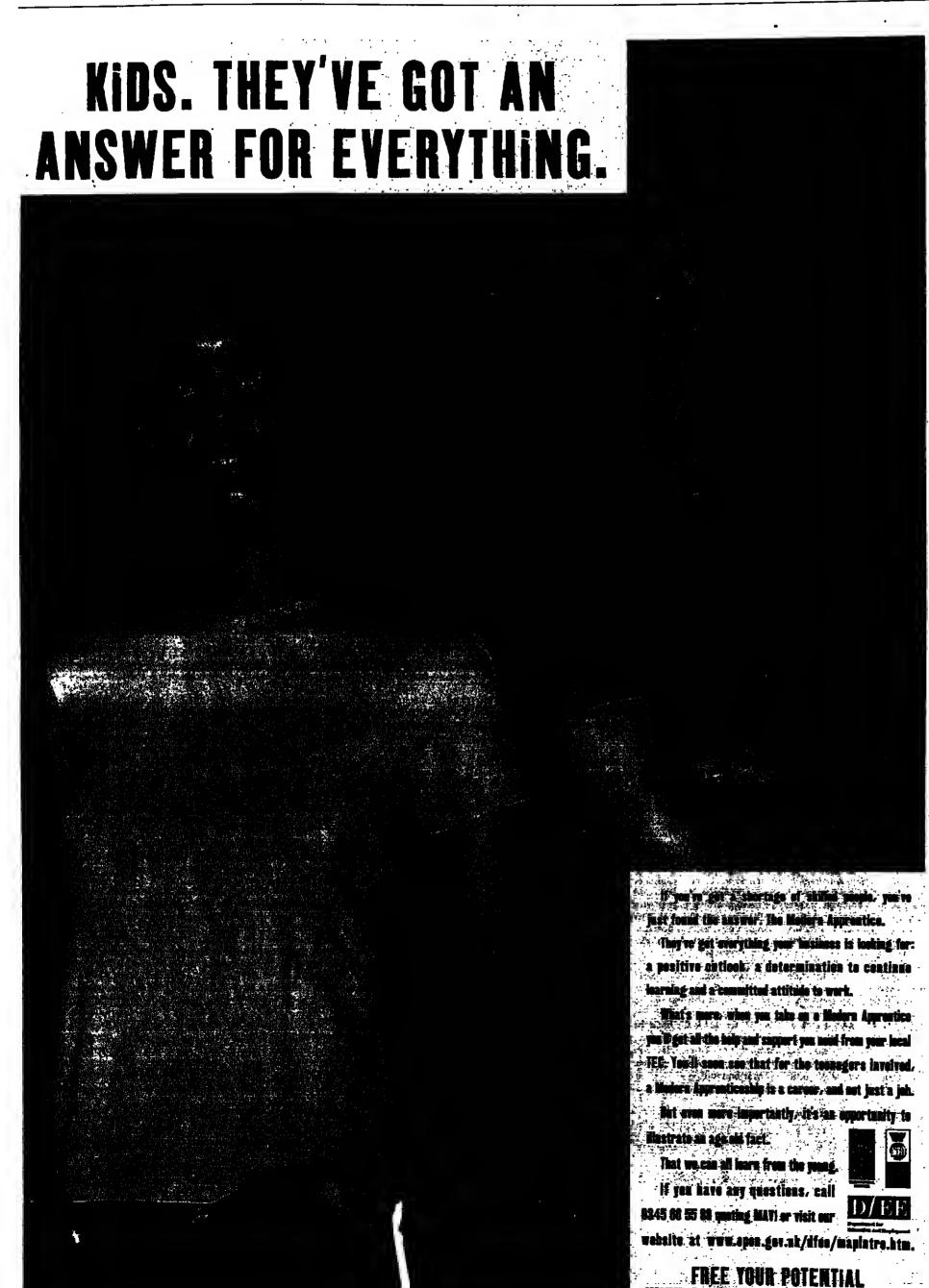
United News & Media is seeking to expand its television interests internationally, the company said yesterday after unveiling a 17 per cent rise in underlying annual profit to £340.3m. Lord Hollick, the chief executive, said United was tooking to develop content but would also aim to take stakes oversuas to help secure distribution for its programming. United has extensive interests in television, owning three of the regional ITV franchises plus a stake in Channel 5, the national channet launched last March.

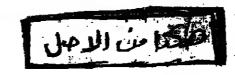
#### QPR 'still in Division One'

Chris Wright, chairman of Loftus Road, the parent company of Queens Park Rangers yesterday said he accepted that it now may not be possible for QPR to win promotion to the Premier League this season. The club would then face a third season in the Nationwide League Division One, and would no longer have the benefit of the Premier League "parachute payment" which is paid to relegated clubs for the first two seasons after their relegation from the Premier League. The benefit of this payment for the full year ending 31 May is expected to be in the region of £2.1m.

#### The rewards of success

Sandy Weill, chairman and chief executive of Travelers Group, the insurance giant which bought Salomon Brothers last year, has collected one of the world's largest pay cheques. In 1997, Mr Weill collected \$270.1m (£163.7m). The total included £220.2m made by exercising stock options, and \$49.9m in total pay. Mr Weill's fat pay cheque reflects the fact that he built Travelers into the second largest US financial company in market value. Last year was "a year of outstanding accomplishments for the company", Travelers' compensation committee said. The company said it experienced continued strong internal growth, resulting in record operating earnings.





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OUTLOOK ON PENSIONS MIS-SELLING **FOREIGN** OWNERSHIP AND CORPORATE TAX AVOIDANCE.

# Meeting the costs of pension mis-selling

As the Government prepares to announce a spanking new stakeholder pensions policy for the next millemium, the industry and its regulators are still struggling to come to terms with the mess left by the last attempt to reform the way people save for retirement. The Financial Services Authority yesterday estimated the eventual costs of the pensions mis selling fiasco at a staggering £11bn - more than double previous official estimates.

Ministers would do well to leave the lessons, for although blame for pensions mis selling lies largely with the industry and its over enthusiastic salesmen, a substantial part of the mischief is down to the government fiself and the direct encouragement it give to people to take out personal persons. Given this level of culpability, the exchequer is perhaps lucky that it's not picking up at least a part of the tab. With ministers seriously considering the idea of introducing compulsion into saving through stakeholder pensions egged on as ever by the industry - the Treasury is going to find itself doubly liable this time round when it all goes hor-

ribly wrong.
Fortunately the new lot in Downing Street are able to blame incompetent Toxies for the last great foul up (step forward John Major, the responsible minister at the DHSS when the government launched its campaign to convince us we would be better off with a personal pension). Equally fortunately for our cost conscious Chancellor, it is the industry that is picking up

Now for the bad bit. Unfortunately, as far as the rest of us are concerned, the ultimate cost will be born largely by those who buy life assurance - through lower benefits on existing policies and higher charges on future ones. In immually owned life companies, the whole cost is down to policyholders, since it is they who own the company. Even in a proprietary company, there appear to be no hard and fast rules on how the cost should be divided between policyholders and shareholders.

Most companies have provided something in their accounts against the priority cases already settled; but in nearly all instances the provisions are only a fraction of the total costs. The balance, we must assume, is met from the life fund. The present Government seems as incapable as the last of finding a satisfactory way of mig fencing policyholders from these costs and making shareholders and directors wholly liable for the scandal.

In essence, then, we end up with a tax to pay the compensation after all, albeit a hidden and random one. Ho burn.

#### Foreign ownership of Rolls and BAe

A classic piece of Whitehall fudge was served up yesterday in the shape of the raised ceilings on foreign shareholdings in British Aerospace and Rolls Royce, Having accepted the argument that the current 29.5 per cent limit was artificially distorting the market in the two shares, the logical course of action would have been to abolish the restrictions altogether.

This was BAe's preferred option. How-

of independence, went weak at the knees at the thought of Johnnie Foreigner acquiring a sizeable individual stake. It therefore stuck out for a lower limit on sin-

gle foreign shareholdings.

The upshot is that while the ceiling on overall foreign shareholdings has been raised to 49.5 per cent, a new 15 per cent limit has been introduced for individual holdings. The limits are there to keep the two companies and their strategic defence technologies in British hands. Anyone who thinks it ought to be otherwise will be met by Margaret Beckett waving here Special

. . Do Rolls and BAe need such protection when neither GEC nor Vickers can resort to the same defence mechanism? BAe and Rolls might make and power the Tornado but half the fighting kit in the land is armed by GEC, while Vickers is the country's biggest, no its only, manufacturer of battle tanks.

Probably not, but then BAe and Rolls were once owned by the Government and, as is so often the case, ministers cannot quite let go altogether.

Even so, as time goes by it could prove a more and more awkward corner to fight. Protecting BAe from takeover, even from its European allies, at the same time as trying to engineer a consolidation of Europe's defence and aerospace industries looks like wanting to have your Eurofighter and eat

If either Rolls or BAe were ever to be taken over, then the bidder is much more likely to come from these shores. But oever say never. Jaguar thought it was invio-

ever, Rolls, for all its muscular declarations late until Ford came along waving a fat cheque book and discovered that the then government's golden share was made of a baser metal altogether.

#### Tax avoidance and good citizenship

Here is an interesting proposition for the Chancellor from Ernst & Young, one of Britain's keenest practitioners of tax planning: abolish corporation tax. Since corporate tax is only a small fraction of the Government's total tax revenues, it's hardly worth the bother, the extra direct investment in the economy generated by abolishing it altogether would pay back the exchequer in spades, And, like Pitt's disastrous tax on windows, it just encourages silly behaviour. People bricked up their windows so as not to pay it; companies engage in equivalent, wasteful, forms of tax avoid-

Next week's Budget is exciting even more attention than usual from the accountancy profession because it is expected to crack down massively on avoidance. Using loopholes in the law to reduce liability to tax may be legal, but Gordon Brown, like all Chancellors, thinks it is wrong. The more those with resources at their disposal, whether companies or rich individuals, reduce their tax bills, the more the rest of us have to pay to fund the services provided by the government. What's more, it is not fair, and fairness in tax is a central political concern for Labour.

There are, of course, practical considerations that might limit ability to block clever avoidance schemes. Some measures might be too expensive to administer, or might clamp down on completely normal transactions along the way. It is fair to say that the Inland Revenue assumes the worst of everybody, and they are sometimes

If there is to be a clampdown on avoidance then the Chancellor should be concentrating primarily on companies rather than individuals. We might resent the filthy rich getting away with clever schemes to pay less tax, but even if they all save a million or two, the amount foregone pales into insignificance compared to the sums by which some big companies manage to reduce their payments.

In an age when transparency has become a mantra for good governance, multinationals are getting away with murder, aided and abetted by the accountancy profession. As governments and institutions progressively open themselves up to public scrutiny and accountability. the modern day corporation remains one of the last great bastions of secrecy and obfuscation. No team of tax inspectors has a hope of getting to the bottom of what's going on in the affairs of those determined to practise rinky-dink tax avoidance.

Finance directors tend to defend tax avoidance by citing a fiduciary duty on behalf of shareholders to minimise tax. Such arguments only encourage governments into anti business policies. Solutions are hard to find but no government should give up the effort to enforce responsible corporate citizenship.

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#### Tobacco bootleggers costing millions claims Gallaher chief

By Andrew Yates

GALLAHER, the UK's biggest cigarette manufacturer, with leading brands such as Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut, yesterday warned that the tobacco bootlegging industry is now worth hundreds of millions of pounds a year. .

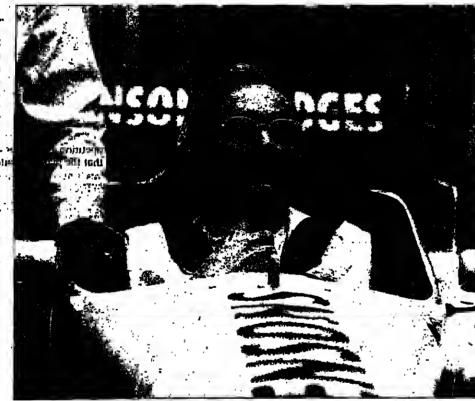
Analysts estimate the explosion of illegal imports posts the ... industry tens of millions, while the Government is losing up to £600m a year in lost tax. revenues.

Gallaher believes that bootleggers importing cheap cigarettes from Continental Europe now account for 3 per cent of the whole UK market, estimated to be worth more than £10bn a year. The group claims that the explosion in illegal importation of tobacco is the main reason behind a 4 per ceot fall in the cigarette market in 1997.

The handrolling tobacco market has also been damaged by illegal imports which now account for three quarters of UK consumption. Bootleggers are importing tons of tobacco mainly from Belgium and Luxembourg

Peter Wilson, chairman and chief executive of Gallaher. vesterday surprisingly backed the principle of a voluntary ban of smoking at work or in public places. "I think it is a matter of common sense. If people can come together and make a decision then that it the right

solution." However, Gallaher joined BAT in denouncing Government research published earlier this week that passive smoking harms health and can kill. "I am saddened. This should be judged on science not emotioo. They have not established there is any increase in risk from passive smoking," said Mr Wilson.



'Sink the smugglers': Peter Wilson, chairman and CEO of Gallaher Photograph: Kristian Buss

However, Gallaher said yes-

terday that the group had no m-

tention of compensating victims

Gallaher, along with its main UK rival, Imperial Tobacco, faces the threat of litigation from lung cancer victims in the UK. The legal action comes in the wake of the US tobacco industry's decision to arrange a settlement with claimants in response to a stream of compensation claims.

and would continue to fight them tooth and nail in the courts. "We have in place meritorious defences and continue to have faith in the British justice system. We will not be settling any cases," Mr Wilson THE US TOBACCO INDUSTRY has mounted a multi-

million pound advertising campaign across America designed to persuade the nation that its \$370bn (£225bn) compensation settlement for cigarette victims is a fair one. Brown & Williamson, the American arm of BAT, Philip Morris, RJR Nabisco and Lorillard, are funding the initiative in the hope that it will prompt the US Congress will vote through the deal. The move comes amid growing fears that Congress may demand harder linancial penalties from the industry. The advertisement says that the settlement will safeguard hundreds of thousands of jobs and claims it is crucially important to the industry and all of America.

said. Gallaher admitted that the proposed European wide ban on advertising and sponsorship would have a big impact on its business. However the group is confident it can circumvent the ban and maintain sales by increasing promotions in shops that sell cigarettes.

The Government is expected to announce another rise in tobacco duty next week, equivalent to around 20p for a packet of 20.

If the duty is imposed in the next few months then Gallaher admits it could prove a significant drain on profits. However it is hoping Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will not choose to impose the new duty until December.

Investment column, page 25

#### CBI forges an unlikely green alliance

Environment Correspondent

FORMING AN unlikely alliance, the Confederation of British Industry and Friends of the Earth yesterday declared themselves in favour of enviroamental taxes. Not surprisingly, the industrialists were more cautious than the green

pressure from.
The statements came just days before a Budget in which Chancellor Gordon Brown is well above thought that the tax break for company cars will be curbed. In a consultation paper,

the CBI said it had oo objection in principle to eco-taxes or tradable permits - a system yet to be tried out in Britain in which companies are issued with permits estilling them to spew out a certain quantity of pollution.

They can then trade these permits between themselves at a price established in a free market. Companies which find further it cheap and easy to surb police taxes. Iution can sell permission of which do not.

enue raised by eco-taxes must be offset by cuts in other taxes on firms and households. It rejects the idea that pollution taxes are justified in order that taxes on employment and income should be cut. The prime reason for any eco-tax must be to curb a particular type of

pollution.

BP's chief economist, Professor Peter Davies, chair of the group which drew up the paper, said: "Business wishes to play its part in ensuring a clean environment as efficiently and ef capt, said: "This is truly the fectively as possible."

The CBI says any extra rev- Earth unveiled radical budget promises.

proposals including a 9 per cent rise in petrol duty and a tax on oon-resideotial private car parking spaces which would raise £400m a year.

These and other taxes. along with cuts in the roads programme, would allow a big expansion in energy-saving measures for low-income and pensioner households and a 3per-cent cut io employers' National Insurance contribu-

FoE's director, Charles Sectively as possible."

Grancellor's last chance to deMeanwhile, Friends of the fiver oo his environmental

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**COMPUTER SYSTEMS** 

#### Hambro Countrywide admits danger

HAMBRO Countrywide yesterday admitted the that decision by Hambros ple - the banking group that owns 52 per cent of its shares - to distribute its stake among its own investors, had made the estate agency and financial services group a takeover target.

Harry Hill, Countrywide's managing director, said this would give the company the benefit of its shares having far greater liquidity than they had in the past and predicted an improved share price performance in the short term.

But he conceded the group would also be more exposed to takeovers as a result of the change in its shareholding base.

He said there had been approaches during the period of uncertainty about Hambros Pic's future but there had been thing that has ever become

takeover attempt.

Countrywide still harbours ambitions to grow its life assurance husiness through acquisition, but Mr Hill said prices were currently "rather more than we would like to pay" and the group would continue to be reactive on potential buys, with oone in view.

His comments came as Countrywide reported record pre-tax profits of £52.7m for 1997 and said it was optimistic about the future.

To have made a million pounds a week is quite an achievement for a company that made a loss only a few

years ago," Mr Hill said. The profits for the year represented a 71 per cent increase on 1996 when the group re-ported profits of £30.8m. The group said its dividend for the

totally serious" in terms of a year would total 3p, a rise of 50 per cent on 1996. Mr Hill said the group had

"neither the need or desire" to raise any extra capital for the time being, although he conceded this would now be an easier process without Hambros as the dominant shareholder. Only 25 per cent of Countrywide's husiness is now sell-

of life assurance and the remaining 25 per cent its surveying services. Mr Hill said that as Countrywide's recently launched conveyancing service increased in profit, the balance of business from the traditional estate agency role of selling homes will

ing houses, with half made up

fall further. But despite a slight slowing in last quarter of 1997 Mr Hill said he still saw more growth from the housing market,

which has seen prices increase rapidly in certain areas notably, London and South-east England over the last 18 "We believe the housing

market has still got growth to come," be said, adding that house sales were still below the 18-year average. Countrywide had seen the average price of houses it sold

rise to more than £80,000 in February and Mr Hill predicted it would be above this level for the year as a whole. The average house price in 1997 was up 15.9 per cent to £73,576. Mr Hill said there would be a much broader based recovery

London and the South East losing some momentum. - "Loodon and the Southeast will be a touch less fierce." he said.

in the market than in 1997, with

All offers end 14th March

# Big game hunt lifts Liberty International

MARKET REPORT



South African-coetrolled financial group, jumped 28.5p to a 606p peak as the stock market latched on to ambi-

hunting for a significant ac- too high quisition. Last month it recruited Jim Sutcliffe, once tipped as a potential chief executive of Prudential Corporation, as deputy chairman. His brief is to develop the company into a major financial services

Liberty, with a capitalisato more than £3bn to stand any reaching new highs. chance of becoming a Footsie

cent has £2.5bn in finance raised £527m selling its half to 49.5 per cent. share in the then Sun Holdings (now Sun Life & Provincial)

LIBERTY International, the major assets is 71.9 per cent of Capital Shopping Centres, firm at 451.5p.

Donald Gordon Liberty, it is tious plans which could elevate thought likely to concentrate the shares to Footsie mem- its takeover fire power on overseas acquisitions. It be-The company, it seems, is lieves prices in this country are

> Footsie's four-day winning index giving up 35 points to 5,794.8. An uncertain New and the shadow of next week's Budget prompted the retreat. But, once again, supporting shares were buoyant with the

British Aerospace, up 20p at 1,935p, and Rolls-Royce, 14p The company, where South to 268.5p, responded to the ex-African interests have 69 per pected Government decision to lift the restriction on foreign available for acquisitions. It held shares from 29.5 per cent

National Grid, as HSBC appeared to reduce its 11.6 per

Reuters, off 25p to 638p, was hit by another legal assault with a Swiss group registering Headed by the legendary a suit against the information

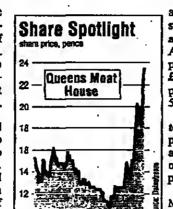
group in the US. Already Reuters is under investigation in the US after rivals Bloomberg alleged its products had been improperly obtained and used by Reuters. The Swiss allegations "are comcanter came to an end with the pletely without foundation", said the news group.

Compass, the caterer, rose York opening, profit taking 8p to 958p on its Footsie arrival and revived hopes of Rentokil Initial bid interest. Relegated Dixons fell 2.5p to 489p and Misys, the computtion of £1.7bn, needs to grow mid and SmallCap indices er group which just missed out on Footsie membership, gained 112.5p to 2,727.5p.

Among the buoyant second liners Airtours climbed 32.5p to 510p and drugs group Galen added 24p to 495.5p. But sterling's renewed strength hurt engineers with Glynwed International, off 9.5p to 241.5p and TI 9p to

British Blotech was rav- was engaged in a range of nor- shares were placed at 30p folaged by the suspension of An-mal institutional meetings. drew Miller, director of

to 70p, lowest since 1995. MFI Furniture slipped 3.5p of its institutional investors. Schroders, had demanded a said chairman Derek Hunt



Wembley, oo the Arsenal clinical research, falling 15.5p FC approach, was at one time up 41p. The shares closed at

gain to £2,300. meeting because of the chain's chinery group, produced loss-shares advanced 43p to dismal trading. A spokesman es and another warning, falling 208.5p; Westbury slipped 4.5p 20p to 285p.

Oil services groups Abbot as well as encouraging trading. Abbot, which could have lifted profits from £7.4m to nearer peak. Expro jumped 32p to

Newcomer Pennant International, a maker of computer-based training systems. moved to 142.5p from a 125p of May.

. WML, the old Whinney Mackay Lewis architect group, returned to market as WML.

lowing the acquisitions of two property related companies. Housebuilders were given a lift by the takeover bid for 364.5p, 14p higher. On Ofex, John Maunders by rival Westto 89p. It denied reports one Arsenal shares scored a £100 bury. The agreed cash and shares offer priced Maun-Molin, the cigarette ma- ders at £55m. The target's

> to 272p. North Midlands Cooand Expre International were struction put on 13p to 98.5p. strong on talk of US bid action a peak, after a profit surge from £1.4m to £2.2m. Further progress is expected this year.

> Emerald Energy, seeking £14m, gained 6p to 192.5p, a oil and gas in Colombia, held at 7.25p after raising £3.4m by placing shares at 6.75p. The cash is needed because of further delays at its Chawina 2 site; its expects to move to its arrived on AIM; the price Matambo field by the middle

> > Freeport Leisure climbed 13.5p to 352p. It has formed a joint venture company to develop a shopping mall at New

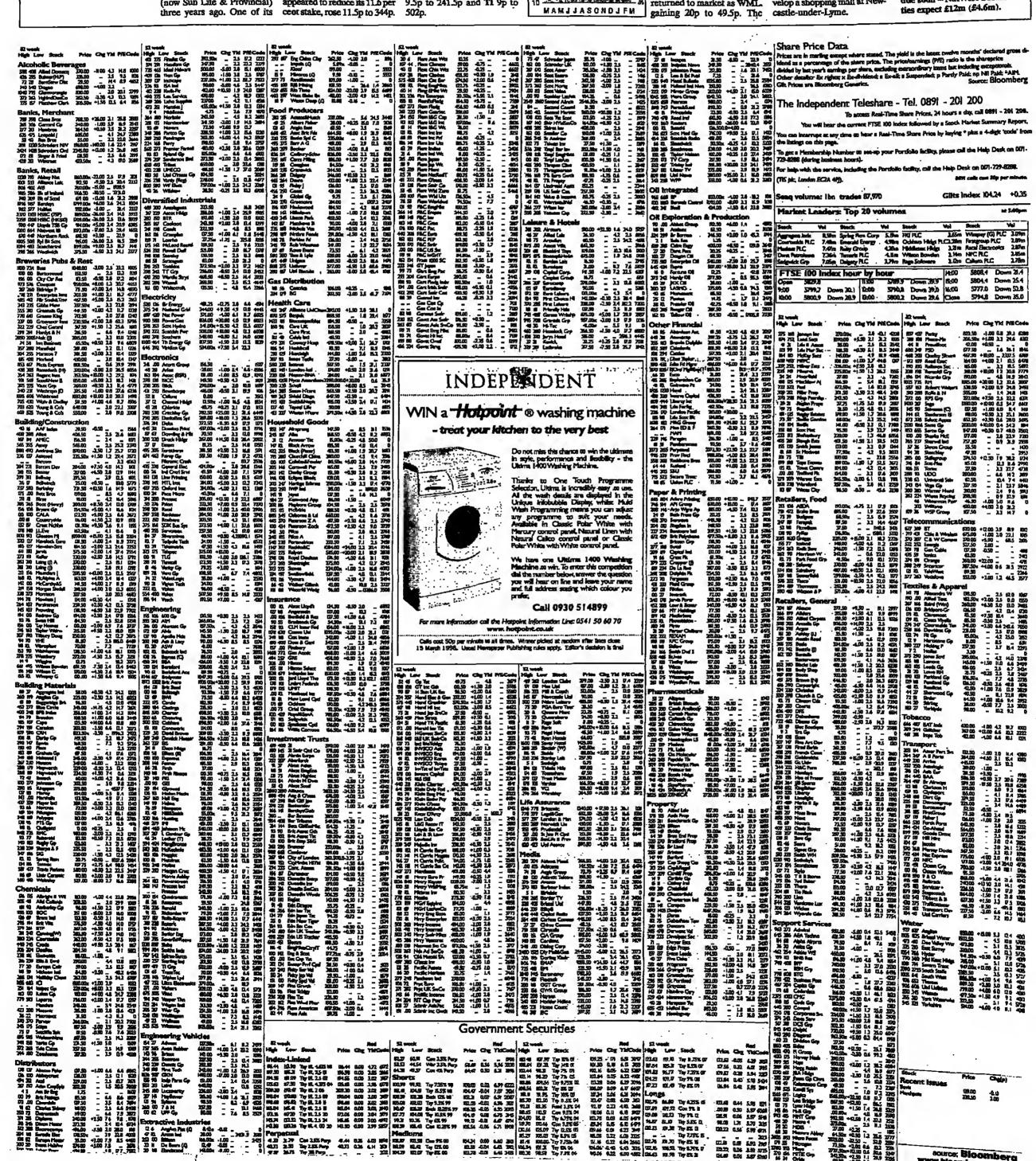
TAKING STOCK

Fariake, a fund manager with £270m under its control, jumped 55p to 255p. Two new shareholders have climbed on board. They are EMS Capital, a US-backed investment company, and Derwent, a business thought to be related to David Rowland, the Monaco-based property entrepreneur. His last quoted play was Iooco, a property group. EMS has nequired 25.4 per cent from stockbroker Hichens Harrison and Derwent seems to have picked up 14.9 per cent through the market. Fariake shares reached 475p two years ago. They were hit when managing director Peter Leonard departed to form Integrated Asset Management, suspended at 130p.

Queens Moat Houses, the struggling hotel chain which almost came to grief in 1993, climbed to a two-year high, up 0.75p to 23.25p. There is talk of overseas buying. Profits of the still debt-laden group are due soon - NatWest Securi-

cusebuilding

as of takeove



# THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

#### Challenging time for UB's sales line

UNITED Biscuits has proved a dismal investment over the past five years, but the company was expressing confidence yesterday that it is oow turning the corner. It has cleared out disasters like the Keebler business in America and last November it conducted a £241m asset swap with PepsiCo under which it sold its French and Australian snacks operations in return for PepsiCo's French biscuit business. The deal has enabled United Biscuits to return £150m to shareholders which will be effected by the issue of "B" shares that will theo be bought back.

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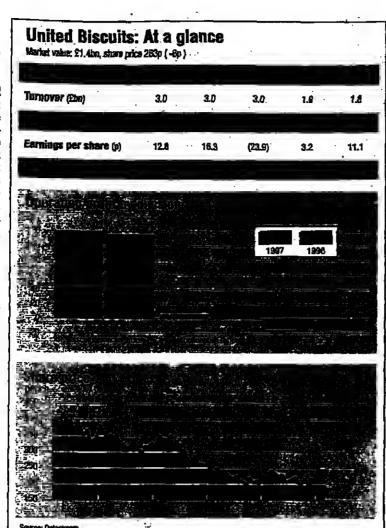
UB's pruned portfolio is now organised into two divisions - the McVities biscuits business and UK foods which takes in snacks, chilled and frozen foods. The plan is to concentrate more on its core banded products like Penguin, Hula Hoops and Skips as well as its new Go Ahead range of low-fat snacks and less on own label goods supplied to the supermarkets.

Management seems more focused oo sharebolder value. It has cut costs and concentrated on building margins which rose by a full perceotage point last year. The challenge now is to huild the sales line which didn't budge at all in any of the divisions last year.

This is promising much, but the City is not sure management can deliver. Pre-tax profits before exceptionals fell by 3 per cent to £106.2m last year though UB says this was due to the decline in businesses now discontinued. ly valued. The shares fell 6p to 263p But in the UK, which is UB's main market by some distance, sales were flat eveo after stripping out lower exports forward rating of 16 and yield almost because of the strong pound and £12m five per cent. Given the scale of the from the sales of businesses. Howev- challenge that looks high enough, er, management has drawn some comfort from achieving sales growth of around 5 per cent in the last quarter Life not so bad of last year and the first two months of this one.

Delivering longer term sales growth will test UB's marketing skills and will be made more difficult given the cut- HAVING been jilted at the altar by

and with gearing halved to 17 per cent its own Reed is no weakling. it could afford more share buy-backs, . That said, by failing to close the deal



yesterday and assuming full-year profits of £120m this year, they trade on a

#### for Reed after all

throat market in which UB operates. Wolters Kluwer, Reed Elsevier was Eric Nicoli, the company's long-stand- yesterday making out that single life isn't ing chief executive, says regional dom- so bad after all. To a certain extent, it's toance is much more important than right. Although the £18bn marriage global scale, but the fact remains that would have created a powerful in-UB is a £1.4bn company up against huge ternational publishing group, with nearcompetitors like PepsiCo and Nestlé. monopolies in key areas such as It is looking at bolt-on acquisitions scientific and legal publishing, even on

but the strong run of the last two Reed is missing out on tens of millions ings growth looks fairly ordinary for now sits on an unjustified premium to

reported a 20 per cent fall in profits as a result of hefty restructuring after Reed uncovered circulatioo irregularities in the US. Repaying advertisers for overcharging and writing down the value of the business prompted an exceptional writeoff of £401m - as Reed had already announced. The Travel Group is unlikely to im-

panding media business. Much of the

blame falls on the Travel Group, which

prove much this year. The other parts of the business should continue to forge ahead. Having raised £860m from the sale of its consumer magazines Reed, with oet cash oo the balance sheet, has plenty of firepower to make acquisitions. Based on the existing businesses alone, however, growth prosects don't exactly set the pulse racing. Brokers forecast profits of £855m, which puts shares in Reed International, Reed Elsevier's UK parent, on a forward p/e ratio of 21. High enough for now.

#### Gallaher full of Eastern promise

WHATEVER you think about the ethics of tobacco companies they make a packet. Gallaher, Britain's biggest cigarette supplier which produces best-selling hrands such as Benson & Hedges and Silk Ort, announced an 11 per cent in pro-tax profits to £337m yesterday. But can it keep growing at this sort of rate?

The UK market is declining at 4 per cent a year, mainly due to bootleggers who are costing the industry dear, Tofor its ability to squeeze prices for key products even higher. An independent bacco duty is rising relentlessly which, Wolters means more competition in although it has not yet bad a significant some of Reed's markets and another impact on demand, must eventually hit potential bidder driving up the price of sales. And it has seen the emergence of cheap discounted brands which will lesd to a fall in industry margins. Gallaher has been able to offset this by cutnounced the merger. So has the fall in ting costs but it cannot go oo doing so for ever. Throw in the European Uniou's decision to ban tobacco advertising and the threat of legal action from cancer victims and the prospects for the mature UK market look poor.

Well, perhaps, Adjusting for the That means the key to Gallaher's suostrength of sterling and other excepcess will be its expansion into overseas tional items, yesterday's figures showed Reed Elsevier's pre-tax profit rising by markers, particularly Fastern Europe and 10 per cent to £823m in 1997. Howev-Asia, which are growing rapidly. er, this includes acquisitions and doesn't

The shares, which rose 13p to 363p are sitting on a prospective PE ratio of 12 which looks flat. Gallaher should contime to prove to be a reliable performer. However, after a sharp rise-in-the Adjust for these factors, and earn- group's value in recent months the stock

#### PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

#### IOHN WILLCOCK



HOWARD Hodgson, the former king of British undertakers and ex-boss of Rouson, has been appointed chief executive of a cigarette lighter manufacturer which was recently bought out of liquidation by its American af-

The trading subsidiaries of Colibri of London were put into liquidation last month. Now Colibri Corporation of America, a separate company that broke off from the UK business over 30 years ago, has bought Colibri of London and appointed Mr Hodgsoo boss of a new company, Colibri Corporation Limited.

Colibri owns a number of trademarks to lighter and pen designs, and its turnover in the US is over \$90 million.

Fred Levinger, President of the US company, said: "We intend to finance and support the oew international entity...so that it achieves a prominent place in the market."

"From a marketing perspective, we look forward to the obvious synergies of a united brand name."

LONRHO continues its transformation into a club for South African tycoons with the appointment of Sir Alastair Morton as a nonexecutive director.

Sir Alastair, the man who got Eurotunnel dug, grew up in South Africa before getting a scholarship to Oxford University.

Although his nationality is English and his

father was a Scottish oil engineer, Sir Alastair will no doubt feel at home with the other South Africans on the Lonrho board, chairman Sir John Craven, and mining director Terence Wilkinson.

Sir Alastair spent his first four working years at De Beers and Anglo American in South Africa, before moving to the World Bank. He is currently, amongst many other things, an adviser to the vice chancellor of the University of Cambridge and chairman of the National Youth Orchestra.

BEAUFORD, a manufacturer of ceramics based in Leeds, has appointed a new chief executive to replace Edward Dake, who has re-

Alliance. Obviously Mr Duke couldn't spend his time leading marches to London and put in a full working week at the office, so be has switched to a non-executive role at the com-

The new chief executive of Beauford is Clive Gilham, a chartered accountant who has been finance director of the company since

Mr Duke joined the board of Beauford in 1991 when it was in the red and being nursed along by its banks. During his time at the helm. the company was refinanced, 12 engineering subsidiaries were closed or sold and three industrial and ceramics companies bought, repositioning the business as a specialist ceramics maker.

Lets hope Mr Duke can do a similar good job at the Countryside Alliance, although I think with its disparate make-up of fox bunters, green-belters and horny-handed sons of toil the Alliance might be a tougher proposition.

BILL Harrison, the former head of BZW. started at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell 10 days ago as head of corporate advisory, with the additional role of integrating corporate banking and investment banking business, a process that will cost thousands of joh losses worldwide.

Back in 1996 Mr Harrison trousered three million pounds from BZW, causing gasps even in the highly-paid pariours of the City.

Yet a naughty little bird whispers in my ear that Mr Harrisoo's pay-off when he left BZW last autumn, following Barclays' decision to sell most of its investment bank, "barely climbed into seven figures."

Poor chap. Lets hope Deutsche make up for this fallow year.

KEN Bates, chairman of Cheisea, is not a man to cross lightly. Indeed Mr Bates's reputation is so fierce that his fellow directors take great care what they say when they're in his pres-

For instance Alan Shaw, Chelsea's company secretary, told journalists as be started the annual results presentation at Stamford Bridge yesterday: "The good oews is that Michael Russell [finance director] and myself are here to take your questions. The bad news is that Ken Bates isn't here, but he will be available to talk to you at luncb."

Such respect. No wonder Mr Bates is known as "The Godfather of Stamford

WHAT'S a "Reusable Transit Package?" CK Chow, chief executive of GKN, has the answer. Its the plastic versioo of a cardboard

Mr Chow reckons the RTP has "enormous poteotial" to replace the humble cardboard model, since the former is more robust and environmentally sensitive, being reusable.

GKN is already supplying such things to Asda and is talking to four supermarket chains in France and Spain.

Sales of RTPs could eventually reach . . £1bn for each continent of the world, and GKN

#### Housebuilding shares boom in wake of takeover

sector rose sharply yesterday af-ter an agreed £55m takeover dend of 2.6p per share for the financial year to 30 June. deal excited the market. John Maunders Group, the resideotial property development company, announced it had agreed to a recommended bid from housebuilding company Westbury to streogthen its market share in the south of England and extend into the North-

The bid for Maunders, which builds residential homes, follows Westbury'a 1996 takeover of Clarke Homes and is part of a consolidatioo movement by homebuilders seeking larger land holdings during a period of rapid constructioo growth.

The board of Westbury believes that the acquisition provides an excellent opportunity for Westbury to take a significant step forward in its growth plans and will also further raise Westbury's market and land buying profile." the company said in a statement.

The offer will be made on the basis of 2.7 shares and £14.72 in eash for every 10 Maunders shares valuing each Maunders share at around 219p a share. Maunders shareholders will

PROFITS at Syiner Group,

the luxury car dealership that

floated on the stock market in

December, saw profits acceler-

are three-fold in its last year as

profit of £7.97m in 1997, a

198-per-cent increase on the

year. Underlying profits, ex-

cluding an exceptional £1.37m

profit on the disposal of a free-

hold property, grew 147 per

2.67m it made in the previous

The group made a pre-tax

a private company.

Sytner profits up threefold

in year before flotation

SHARES in the house-building be entitled to an interim divi-

The offer represents a 32 per cent premium over Maunders' share price of 165.5p at close of trading on Wednesday night . Yesterday, the shares were marked np 43p or 26 per cent to close at 208.5p. Westbury lost 4.5p to 272p.

The bid sparked enthusiasm for housebuilders' stocks with Bryant Group rising 5p to 154.5p, Barratt Developments up 7.5p to 284p, Beazer group ahead 6.5p to 217p and Berkeley Group gaining 10.5p to

Westbury said in a statement that it would raise £34.7m, net of expenses, through a one-forsix rights issue of 15.08 million shares at 235p per share. The rights issue has been underwritten by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson with Panmure Gordon as its brokers. Dealings in the issue will start on or around 19

#### Molins operations hit by demand downturn

acquisition targets.

Of course, this is no different from

the position Reed was in before it an-

its share price - the shares yesterday fell

by another 6.5p to 610.5p and are oow

down 15 per cent from their high in ear-

ly March - now accounted for that?

count the expense of defusing the Mil-

leonium time bomb. That cost Reed

£11m last year, and the total bill is like-

ly to reach £75m.

reported a sharp drop in operficult - its sixth warning in the space of a year. The news sent Asian markets. shares in the firm skidding 20p, or 7 per cent, lower to 285p by the close of dealing.

Michael Orr, Molins chairman, said: "Substantial cost reductions bave already been made in an effort to underpin profitability. Even so, with sterling remaining strong, we will do well to achieve improved operating results in the current

The group fell into a pre-tax loss of £20.1m for 1997 compared with a profit of £33.4m in 1996. Operating profit before exceptional charges was £13.1m compared with £38.3m. It also said it could not rule

MOLINS, the troubled tobac- out a further reduction in caco machinery maker, yesterday pacity at its tobacco machinery division following the compaating profits and warned that the my's decision in November to current year would also be dif- cut 500 jobs at the division because of slower orders from

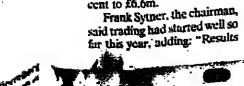
> Molins blamed the profit downturn on a sharp reduction in demand at its tobacco machinery division and the cousequent restructuring. The group took a charge of £31.1m in the 1997 accounts, some £17.9m for restructuring and £13.4m for accounting irregularities.

As a result of the downturn the group cut its final dividend ment to 8.5p per share from 15.5p in the previous year.

Although Molins does not rule out a further reduction capacity, it expects its tobacco machinery division to remain profitable subject to further exceptional costs.

Shares at 2330 het amite. The					
rights issue has been under-	COMPANY	RESUL	TS		
written by Dresdner Kleinwort		Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EP\$	Dividend
Benson with Panmure Gordon as its brokers. Dealings in the	Ash & Lacky (F)	151.4m (146.6m)	11.3m (10.1m)	21.1p (19.4p)	7.70
issue will start on or around 19	British Blokair (F)	42.0m (44.2m)	0.460m (0.869m)		4.0p (5.5p)
March.	Cape (F)	243.2m (242.6m)	8.9m (-13.2m)	11.8p (-24.7p)	
The merged operations of	Choices Viltage (1)	35.5m (10.4m)	. 0.190m (-0.404m)		
Mesthury and John Maunders is	Could: Consulting (F)	39.2m (34.5m)	8.45m (3.04m)	-20.21p (2.78p)	0.1p (2.3p)
expected to deliver cost savings	Davis Science (F)	407.7m (343.8m)	44.2m (32.1m)	21.040 (18.90)	11.30 (10.30)
of around £2.5m m a full year.	Beer (i)	14.7m (13.9m)	0.573m (-1.56m)	-1.Sp (-1.4p)	oi .
Exceptional reorganisation costs	Carllabor (F)	4.41bs (4.87bs)	337.2m (501.9m)	35.2p (32.5p)	19.250
would be £1.5m in the first year.	GROW (F)	3.58bn (3.35bn)	408.0m (93.0m)	78.40 (-12.00)	ai .
	Hambre Countryelds (7)		52.8m (39.8m)	15.5p (8.42p)	3.0p (2.0p) -
	Hanover (F)	19.9m (8.6m)	1.85m (0.857m)	9.9p (11.7p)	1.0p (HF)
p threefold	Kier Group (1)	336.2m (337.6m)	3.8cr (3.1m)	8.2p (6.7p)	2.8p (n/l)
	Lagal & General (F)	· (·)	349.5m (251.4m)	19.9p (16.5p)	12.7p (11.1p)
are currently ahead of our internal budgets and the prospects for the remainder of the year continue to be encouraging. We remain committed to growth in partnership	John Meintders (f)	42.6m (37.3m)	3.40mi (3.10m)	9.21p (8.28p)	2.50p (2.50p)
	Molles (F)	254.8m (306.2m)	-20.1m (33.4m)	-58.9p (72.8p)	15.0p (22.0p)
	John Manipa (P)	1.40bn (1.40bn)	-12.4m (18.7m)	-12.5p (8.1p)	4.0p
	MOTA Southward (F)	42.2m (41.8m)	5.12m (4.82m)	17.4p (15.7p)	5.5p (6.0p)
	Jardisel Joya Thomas in (P)		20.7m (32.96m)	1.70 (9.46)	13.250
	Orange (P)		-199.Dm (-229.Dm		nž
	Poster Emergy (I)	10.52m (15.3m)	1,83m (-14,8m)	0.379 (4.454)	槌
	Peatitand (F)	755.2m (\$89.6m)			3.880
ith great marques and to de-	Rockitt & Coleman (F)	2.20bn (2.32bn)	302.5e (334.5m)		24.0p (21.97p
vering value to our share-		(·)	-0.187m (-0.32m)		
"We will continue to grow our	Skypherma (F)	13,8m (11,1m)	-17.7m (14.5m)	-5.1p (6.9p)	19E
business by acquisition but only	Talacontrit (F)	113.0m (117.0m)		4.8p (1.5p)	1.450
con do fais bruceus					
THEO ME CALL OF THE PROPERTY.	Takery Douglas(I)	22.81m (22.29m)		7.0p (8.8p)	2.0o (5.0p)
and when our stringent myest.	Treats Group (F)	1.77bs (1.98bs)	90.4m (24.4m)	11.1 <sub>p</sub> (3.2 <sub>p</sub> )	10.5p
nd when our stringent invest-	to t TTI the ATTI		THE RESERVE LANGE CO. LANGE CO.	10-24)	10.09
nd when our stringent invest- nent criteria can be met	United Bleedts (F)				200 (7.00)
and when Our Stringent mycot-	United Blanch (F) United Industries (F) United News & Media (F)	37,88m (49.87m)		6.530 (-1.680)	260 (2.40p) 24.0c





cent to £6.6m.

ons population of the second population of the Anti-tax avoidance measures seem certain to feature in next week's Budget. Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, outlines the Government's options

#### Tax avoiders braced for a crackdown from the Chancellor

FOR ONE of Britain's thriving industries, the past nine months have been the boom before the bust. Ever since Gordon Brown announced his intention to crack down on tax avoidance in his first Budget last July, the tax planning business has been in overdrive.

As The Independent revealed yesterday, the very rich have been flocking to take advantage of so-called "private" authorised unit trusts as a means of cootrolling the timing of the capital gains from their investments.

Every Budget brings a handful of measures closing loopholes that the Inland Reveoue reckons have become too popular by half. In November 1996 Kenneth Clarke introduced his "speed to save" programme, hiring 2,000 extra Inland Revenue staff in order to cet around £2bo in revenues that would otherwise have evaded the coffers of the Ex-

chequer. However, Mr Brown weot further, saying the Inland Reveoue would carry out a wide ranging review to ideotify the most significant areas of tax paymeots they can oegotiate. Chancellor appears to think of as leakage. And in November he signalled an intentioo to introduce eventually general antiavoidance legislation rather than just ruling out specific plays in each Budget.

Not surprisingly, then, the past few months have seen a rush oo the part of both well-off individuals and companies to get all their "tax planning" in ahead of the Chancellor's speech on

David Williams, of Loudonbased accountants Smith and Williamson, said: "The Chanown pre-announcement of how concerned he is about this."

Accountants claim that past crackdowns mean there are no glaring loopholes left. Yet avoidance - as distinct from evasion, which is illegal con-payment of tax - is still estimated to cost billions of pounds in lost revenues each year.

full April-to-March financial year overseas. In that case, any income or capital gains are liable to being taxed abroad rather than the UK, so a sensible choice of one country to another can keep tax bills to a minimum.

One of the best-known examples was Dave Clarke, the 1960s pop star who subsequently became an entrepreneur. Musicians have always been prominent amongst those favouring stays in low tax places like Ireland and the Channel Islands.

According to John Whiting, head of tax at Price Waterhouse: There are still people leaving the country to avoid capital gains tax. We could see tightening up in the rules about coming and going." He adds, though, that people do also go abroad for all kinds of good reasons.

He also points out that the tax authorities in other countries are prepared to do deals with the rich, and settle for whatever tax The Inland Revenue takes a tougher line, which results in some rich taxpayers leaving the country -- as Andrew Lloyd Webthreatened before Labour woo

are still quite widely used. Some expected to go, such as retirement relief, which allows executives over 50 who sell shares in their company to pay a reduced rate when they retire; or reincellor has been a victim of his vestment relief, where capital gains are exempt from tax if they are invested in another going

But the highest profile will have to be the measures the Chancellor takes to restrict the use of trusts, which the Opposition will be scrutinising carefully for their impact on Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster Gen-

One favoured method of re- eral, who was criticised in the ducing tax liability is to spend a House of Commons for benefiting from an offshore trust.

The big crackdown on these trusts, based in places such as Guernsey and Jersey, occurred in 1991, and it is now difficult for location or clever moves from UK residents to gain any tax advantage from them. Last week Mr Brown acted to close one of the remaining small loopholes available to the beneficiaries of older offshore trusts.

However, many of the rich still use UK-based trusts as a tax efficient way to spread their assets. The catch here is that lots of middle class grandparents use them too, as a sensible way of passing oo their money.

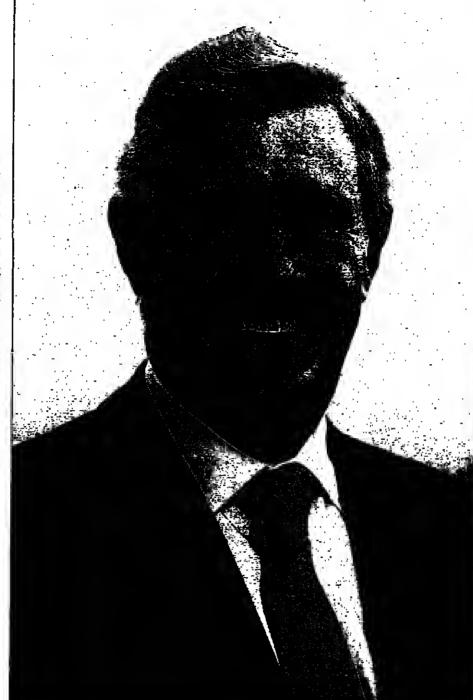
Peter Wyman, head of tax at Coopers & Lybrand, says: "There are a million reasons why people set up trusts, only one of which is tax avoidance. The revenue authorities have become paranoid."

Elspeth May, an expert on personal tax at KPMG, agrees: "A lot of the things that we would consider legitimate tax planning, the tax avoidance.

The real concern of the accountancy profession, however. is the introduction of general ber and Paul Daniels famously anti-avoidance legislation. This could only work with a system of gaining advance clearance for Experts can list a few other proposed transactions, they specific avoidance schemes that argue. Otherwise nobody could be sure of not having their fireliefs from capital gains tax are nancial arrangements retrospectively attacked by the Inland Revenue or Customs & Excise.

> But tax experts fear that this would be combersome because of Inland Revenue understaffing, and would give tax inspectors disturbingly wide powers to judge citizens' behaviour.

> At the heart of their concerns is a different philosophy about tax. Where the tax authorities assume that the money is really theirs, the financial advisers believe it is really their clients', the people who have generated the wealth in the first place.



EVEN IF Gordon Brown had not already pledged to crack down on clever tax avoidance schemes in the Budget, the furore over an offshare family trust benefiting Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General and a close ally of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, would have made it Inevitable. Mr Robinson is a discretionary beneficiary of a Guernsey-based trust set up by a wealthy Belgian businesswoman, Joska Bourgeois, for the Robinson family. The offshare Orion Trust bought shares in TransTec, the engineering business Mr

Robinson built up, and in Coventry City football club. Mr Robinson said he had not controlled or influenced these decisions, and dismissed allegations of wrong-doing as 'smears and mud'. He also pointed out that he had paid about £1.4m in UK taxes over five years. Hawever, the starm means Mr Brown could not possibly seem to backpedal on his tough talk about a clampdown on tax leakage. Tuesday is expected to bring a draft of specific measures along with a draft general anti-avoidance proposal for consultation.

#### TAX LOOPHOLES, OLD AND NEW

Payment in gold bars, coffee beans or other commodities, avoiding income tax and national insurance contributions - outlawed in November

Other benefits in kind in place of salary. For example, private use of a mobile telephone provided by employer - taxed as a perk worth £200 a year from April 1991.

Salary payment in the form of the transfer of the right to be repaid a debt owed by customers. Employees got cash when the debt was settled without liability to PAYE – abolished July 1997.

The Business Expansion Scheme, offering tax relief for investment in new businesses, introduced 1981 restricted to £500,000 a year in 1988, and abolished at the end of 1993. Replaced by Enterprise Investment Scheme giving 20 per cent tax relief to investors in unquoted trading companies.

Turning your company into an empty shell with just a bit of cash and a lot of unpaid tax, putting the profitable business into a new company. Owners sold the shell to a new owner who took the cash and was not liable for the tax - abolished July 1997.

Going ...

Set up a "private" authorised unit trust to postpone capital gains tax on investments until the most convenient date - such as a year you'll be spending abroad. Technically, these have to be open to other investors, but it is easy to put people off with a very high minimum investment and management fee.

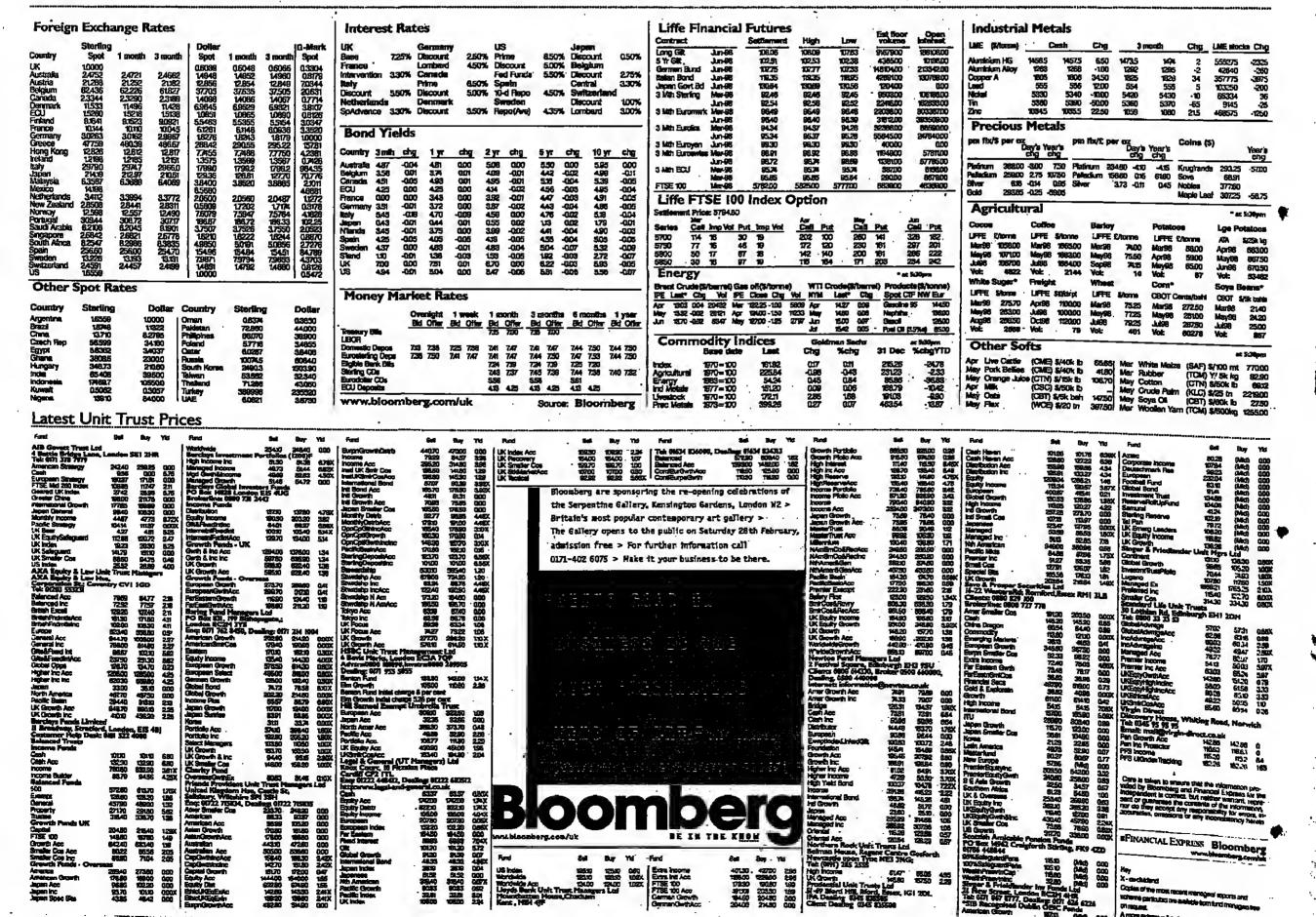
Spending a financial year abroad is still a favoured method of avoiding particularly heavy tax liabilities due at a particular time. Those working full-time overseas for a full | April - 3| March year do not pay UK tax, aithough they may liable to pay tax elsewhere. But by either choosing a country of temporary abode carefully, or by travelling enough, tax can be minimised.

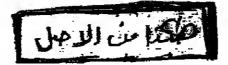
Otherwise, live in a tax haven permanently.

Get rid of your company car, which has become an increasingly beavily taxed perk. Instead, persuade your employer to pay you a tax-free mileage allowance for a car you lease from a 'Structured Employee Gar Ownership Plan'.

Create a non-beneficial trust for your spouse or children. It safeguards some of your assets and is subject to a less onerous tax regime.

Take advantage of 'retirement relief' from capital gains tax, paying a lower rate when you leave your own company. Or reinvest a gain tax-free in unquoted shares in another business. Re-investing taking advantage of this relief.





# Revoked permit fails to stop on-course bookie

#### **Exclusive**

By Greg Wood

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A BOOKMAKER whose betting permit was revoked almost two years ago has been laying bets on the rails ever since, and is expected to be doing so again at the Cheltenham Festival next week.

Slough Crown Court decided on 3 April 1996 that John Henwood, 49, was not "a fit and proper person" to hold a betting permit, but he has continued to an on-course bookmaker. trade on British tracks using a permit issued by Ealing magistrates court to a company of which he is sole director. It is a Association of Bookmakers, alsituation of which the National Association of Bookmakers (NAB) and the Racecourse As- and the Racecourse Association sociation (RCA) are fully aware and which appears acceptable under their rules.

Henwood's permit was origmally revoked in early 1996 by Slough Magistrates Court, as the result of a complaint by Customs & Excise over the non-payment of betting duty. His subsequent appeal to the Crown Court against their decision was refused on 3 April 1996.

he was appointed as one of two allowed to continue to work at

Sandown

3.10 Druid's Brook

directors of the Victoria Blow- his racecourse pitches under the permit a bookmaker and we're rector resigned his position on 16 March 1997, since when Henwood has been the sole director. VBC Ltd has held a betting permit, issued by Ealing magistrates, since 1993, the annual

renewal of which is usually little more than a legal formality. Henwood was listed as a director of VBC in its latest renewal application to the Ealing bench, and it is under this permit that he has continued to operate as The administration of book-

ies' pitches on racecourses is the responsibility of the National though this system is currently under review. Both the NAB were aware of the court's decision, and the NAB's rule book his permitted company ceases for any reason to be the holder of a bookmaker's permit he shall automatically forfeit all his pitches". However, a meeting of the

National Pitch Appeals Committee, at which both the NAB and RCA were represented, Nine days later, on 12 April, agreed that Heowood should be

3.45 Good Lord Murphy (nb)

permit. The RCA representative at the meeting was Stanley Jackson, who was at the time the managing director of the organisation.

Henwood said yesterday: "My trading arrangements are in complete compliance with NAB rules and both my own and the Victoria Blower's trading arrangements have been examined and given a clean bill of health by the NAB, the RCA, Jockey Club Security and Customs & Excise."

A spokeswoman for the RCA said that no one at the association was prepared to comment on Henwood's position.

A spokeswoman for Customs & Excise said: "We can confirm that John Henwood had his permit revoked on 3 states that "if a bookmaker or April, 1996, and that the Victoria Blower Company has had a licence since 1993. We cannot comment on any specific details because of confidentiality but we can confirm that any outstanding matters between John cise have been resolved."

Club's spokesman, said that "it more knowledgeable than the is not up to the Jockey Club to Crown Court?"

er Company Ltd. The other di- Victoria Blower Company's not in a position to comment on whether he should or should not be permitted." Norman Miller, chairman of

the NAB, admitted yesterday that it was "not an easy case"-He said that the Appeals Committee "was in the situation of. do we take this man's livelihood away, or do we not. At the end of the day, it was a matter of judgement. We did not have any complaints from punters, and at the end of the day we have given him the benefit of the doubt. We do not think there is any danger to the public, and had we thought that there was, we away from him."

Not all bookmakers agreed with the decision, however. "We've got the Cheltenham Festival coming up and I think it's very dangerous for anyone with a questionable situation to be let loose in that ring," one said yesterday. "I don't want to see anyone put out of husiness, but the Crown Court didn't feel that he should be in business, Henwood and Customs & Ex- so why should an appeals arrangement within a trade as-John Maxse, the Jockey sociation think that they are



would have taken his pitches John Henwood: Sole director of Victoria Blower Company

tributor to the ongoing debate come extremely valuable comon the fature of the betting ring. modities overnight. Rails bookmakers are pressing to be allowed to display their prices on boards when a Levy Board committee publishes its proposals for the future administration of the betting ring later this month. If, as some expect, the committee also introduces a system whereby pitches can be bought and sold, rather than allocated on a waiting-list

basis, existing rails pitches, in

Henwood was a major con- members' enclosure, would be-

A spokeswoman for Ealing magistrates court said yesterday that the Victoria Blower Company has yet to submit an application for renewal of its betting permit. The deadline for doing so is today, but the permit does not expire for annther month, and Henwood is expected to be calling the odds from his pitch at Cheltenham throughout next week's threeprime locations adjacent to the day Festival.

ning pointer who will relieb the trip and Mary Reveley's raider Brother Of Irls, a bumper where and leak-time-out hurdles wirner, both at Carlete, is another here who may have trouble giving the weight away to Nicky Henderson's charge. Brother Of Irls appreciated the step up in deterors when beating Hacid Just over four weeks ago and he is definitely on the upgrade. Them Tallior her won here and at Essate but there is a doubt shout his stillly to get this longer trip. Be My Mot is a consistent though one-peace mane who was a three-length second to the useful Chebrol in Windson last time. She wean't good enough to who a handling here in Jerusry so looks beautible in this league. Garrison Prisently, a stablement of Kingle Berlint, is a winning pointer who shaped with provise behind Ariday Floyal at Warwick, while Morgane Nill was only tive lengths behind Be My Mot at Folkestone and is now Sib better off with Improvement to some.

Selection; KINGS BANKER

4.15 DUKE OF GLDUCESTER MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £3,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £2,081 HORSE & HOUND GRAND MILITARY GOLD CUP CHASE (amateurs) (CLASSE) £7,000 3m 110yds Pen Value £4,993

RETTING: 11-16 Boson Of Mag, 100-30 Across The Card, 7-2 Archies Cots, 8-1 American Pyra, 14 1 Green Tisses, 16-1 Holy Sting 1997: Brackenfeld 11 11 11 Capt D Alexa-Hankay (7) 4-5 tex (6 Barber) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE

the second an age ago since BRAES OF MAR won over hundles here from stable It seams an age ago since SERALES OF sAAR won over runner in this six-home affair. Brime Fellow and Senor El Senutit yet hat the youngeter runner in this six-home affair. Even with below-per efforts when lightly-need lest term, Brase Of Mar stands out today on this first run for over a year—the important factor being his ability to win when keet from the Black Monk over hundes at Leicester during his second campetys. Beas Of Mar did best Ground Nut on his chearing debut immediately afterwards at Herstord and this looks bit day for further plory, In, the hands of the highly competent. Ofte Jelwood. There are some in-form populates in opposition, though whether the winning form of American Eyre, and Acrose The Centric good enough remains to be seen. They should still go well with their confirmed fitness, but the main threat is likely to come from Ambies. Outs in the capetile hands of Jon Titos-Robin. Archies Cets web over a life short of his best on the course lest time and the combination return to the focuse for the second yeer numbing after landing the Dick McCreeny from Matter Main Man. Green, Times is hard to tency, and Holy Sting also looks well bestable on this first run for a year.

(V) reli resi reli	BETTING: 11-3 Desirty Brook, 3-1 Supporter Fallah, 9-3 Diseases, 9-1 Senior Emer, 10-1 Sever Stack, 14-1 Tapping Along, Derk House, 19-1 Select, Bellublin, 20-1 others 1997; Act The Wag 6 12 1 Capt A Ogden (7) 10-11 fee (4) Tochurlar) 10 ran 1998; Act The Wag 6 12 1 Capt A Ogden (7) 10-11 fee (4) Tochurlar) 10 ran 1998; Act The Wag 6 12 1 Capt A Ogden (7) 10-11 fee (4) Tochurlar) 10 ran 1998; Act The Wag 6 12 1 Capt A Ogden (7) 10-11 fee (4) Tochurlar) 10 ran 1998; Act The Wag 6 12 1 Capt A Ogden (7) 10-11 fee (4) Tochurlar (7) 10 ran 1999; Act West Maria (8) 10-11 fee (4) Tochurlar (8) 10-11 fee (4) 10-11 fee	the periods in the period in the	of Acrosse The Ceref is good enough remelies to be seen. They should still go well with the confirmed fitness, but the main threat is likely to come from Archies Oats in the castle hands of Jon Titos-Robh. Archies Oats with one at the short of his best on the focus at the enough the containation return to the forum for the second year number among after landing the Dick McCreery from Mister Main. Man. Green Times is hard to fancy, and Hotyling also looks wet bestable on this first run for a year.  Selection: BRAES OF MAR
on tow this you wes ing ity,	have to best today. Dromhans is back from a rest and would have a fine chance at his best, expecially with the highly-competent Dominic Alera-Harlesy absent. Superior Finhals, third in the 1995 Grand Neitonal, meets the other pair on very texturable weight terms. He also has the experienced Christian Ward Thomas on his side so this old stager should be being there even on this first start for over a year. Staver State would seem to have the chance, and Dark Honey who has something to do after being besten by the hunter Avoster (winner yesterday) at Lingdeld on his responsance. Evelop Event has an inexpensed rider aboard, but the gelding was a promising pointer and his showings this season at Kolea and Heydock we have put him spot on for this tests. Tipping Along, a winner at Landell last month, and the maiden Senbuilble, would seem the pick of the oth-	126456	SURREY RACING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £5,000  1PRUIT THE PROBS (7) (As a Moude N Twicern Durbon 7 12 3 Each
10-	ers. Selection: DRUD'S EROOK	7	23-22P RELATIVE CHANCE (88) (CD) (Alian S Douglas-Pernant) J King 9 (1) 9
est	3.45 RACAL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m	3	400 BOLD GAIT (Z7) (Als I Prillips) J Pershame 7 10 2 N Williamson 334(80 BLAZE OF SONG (SI) (D Boccock) D Winds 6 10 6 R Namesy (5)
NY	of Penalty Value £3,664	11	-35450 CLUEEN OF THE SURI (11) IR L Scorgle) N Mitchell 9 TO D
-	2 1-4P1 BRIOTHER OF WHS (31) (M H G Systems Ltd) Ma M Rovery 6 11 7 P Notes	2	00800P ROSEHALL (20) (Me T Phington) Me T Phington 7 10 D

# Suny Bay to go before public trial

TRAINERS made some tricky decisions yesterday about whether to send their horses for the Champion Hurdle or easier targets at the Cheltenham Festival, but when Suny Bay's participation in the Gold Cup is decided the punting public will be allowed to take part in the process.

French Holly and Zaralaska were among the notable withdrawals from the Champion at yesterday's five-day acceptance stage, with the Royal & SunAiliance and Supreme Novices' Hurdles their new respective

Despite their defections and those of Collier Bay, Grey Shot and Sharpical, next Tuesday's £200,000 race could have its largest field in several years after a total of 22 horses were left in yesterday.

Ferdy Murphy is convinced that he is right in ruling French Holly out of the Champion. "It was a very difficult decision but in my heart of hearts I know it is right. All year the plan had been to give him about four runs then go for the novice race. We'd kick ourselves if we got it wrong. Everything has worked out well so why change it?

"I would much sooner run in the novice race and have people asking why he didn't go for the Champion than run him in the Champion and have people say I'm an idiot."

Mary Reveley, who has built her career on the cornerstone of caution, surprisingly has allowed Marello to run in the Champioo rather than the Stay-

ers' Hurdle.

"Unless it dries out considerably the Champion is probably the race she will run in. I hope you can ignore her run at Sandown last time. She might not be good enough but I think she deserves to take her chance."

Mrs Reveley, outlining plans for her other Festival runners, Foundry Lane and Robbo, then reverted to more characteristic mode. "As long as they all come home safe and sound that's the main thing. Cheltenham

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Close Harmony (Sandown 2.00) NB: The Proms (Sandown 4:50)

has never meant a great deal to me as we have never had any luck down there."

Charlie Brooks, meanwhile, will make a decision over Suny Bay's participation in the Gold Cup after the grey has worked at Sandown on Saturday. "It's not ideal," Brooks said yesterday. "If you have got a Gold Cup horse you don't really want to be taking him to a racecourse the Saturday before Cheitenham, but he will be short if we don't.

"I may be making a noose for myself but I think it is the right thing to do for two reasons. I think it is the right thing to do for the horse, and the right thing to do for the public.

"The horse has got a good following and it is right to let the public see him and make their own minds up. We are planning to go one mile on the bridle and jump seven feoces."

3.40: 1. BANN VIEW (4 Borry) 14-1; 2. Champagne Friend 11-4 toy; 3. Chot in The Box 25-1. 13 ran. 2, 11/n. (C Brooks, Lambourn). Rote: £25.00; 23.30. £23.0. £88.0 DF: £48.0. CSF: £51.47. The: £75.80.

\$49.00. CSF: SSLAT. True: \$27.00.4.
11: 2. KBmington 15-8 far; 3. Texam Buby 5-2.5 ran. 22. dist. (R. Mathew, Burford). 10-1: 2. KBmington 15-8 far; 3. Texam Buby 5-2.5 ran. 22. dist. (R. Mathew, Burford). 10-1: 20-10. CSF: \$43.30. 4.40: 1. AVOSTAR (Mr. B Pollocid 4-5 fax; 2. Catchappariny 10-1; 3. Shear Ability 33-1.5 ran. 274, 11. (Mrs. Caroline Balley, Holdenby). Total: \$190; \$270; \$140. DF: \$450. CSF: \$19.9.
Placepool: \$23.80. Quandoot: \$8.50.

WINCANTON

C32580.
2.50: 1. BENGERS MOOR (Mr J Tizzard)
1-2 tay; 2. Stratus 18-1; 3. TopperMo 68-1.
6 ran. 17, dist. (P Nichols). Tota: £140; £110,
£210. DF: £500. CSF: £788. MR: Bayline Star.

Placepot: £23.80. Quadpot: £8.50. Place 6: £41.37. Place 5: £14.52.

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0604 BELLATOR (17) (D) D Baking 5 12 6		66-1	100-1	100-1	66-1
41-22 CADOUGOLD (80) (0) M Pips 7 126		401	50-1	50-1	50-1
11-21D COMMANCHE COURT (31) (CD) T WASH (4) 5 126		40-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
-1040 DARAYDAN (SK) (CD) M Plpa 6 12 0		150-1	100-1	100-1	125-1
522-1 DATO STAR (52) (0) JM Jofferson 7 (20	وعلوه	5-1	11-2	11-2	6-1
33320 FMMEGAM'S HOLLOW (X7) (D) A P Other (4) 6 12 0		100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1
ISONO GRAPHIC ROLLALISER (31) [17] (SF) A Moore (14) 6 12 O.P.Cm	rberry	33-1	40-1	53-1	40-1
21-10 GRAMES (101) (D) (SF) C Rocho (N) 5-126	D=yer	20-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
29451 FN SUPPOSIN (19) (D) R Rove 6 12 0	woody	7-1	6-1	6-1	5-1
1-1111 ISTABRAQ (51) (C) (D) AP OBien (4) 8 120C	Swan	52	11-4	5-2	50
29612 KERAWI (\$1) (D) N Neiston-Devies 5 12 6		16-1	16-1	20-1	25-1
420 MR MARIONAM (KS) (IO) J GRood 6 120		100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1
TIE2 PRIOWELL (87) (CD) (BF) M Fipe 6 12 0 A N	<b>acCoy</b>	25-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
2-151 RED BLAZER (17) (D) Max H Kright 7 120 J C	halloty	33-1	40-1	33-1	40-1
12-14 RELKEEL (52) (CD) D Nicholson 9 12 0 A Sile	nguire	20-1	16-1	16-1	204
TIGH SAMMARTINO (IN) (IN) D Nicholson 6 (20R Joh	parametral	20-1	20-1	25-1	20-1
m-22 SHADOW LEADER (36) (CD 8F) C Egerion 7 12 6 N Willie	uista	84	7-1	7-1	6-1
3410 SHOOTING LIGHT (\$1) (CD) P Murphy 5 120		50-1	50-1	66-1	50-1
SOUTH THEATREWORLD (24) (D) AP Chien (M) 5 128		40-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
53332 LADY DAISY (46) (ID) A Muline (II) 8 11 8 J F	Titley 1	100-1	100-1	66-1	100-1
7-1S MARELLO (26) (D) No M Rousby 7 11 9		25-1	33-1	25-1	20-1
SCSIS MESTINGUETT (28) (C) (D) N Theuton-Davies 6 11 6		50-1	66-1	50-1	50-1

Champion Hurdle (2m !10yds)

#### Results

CARLISLE

CARLISLE

2.00: 1. VITAL ISSUE (P Carbarry) 4-6 tay; 2. Hurst Flyer 9-4; 3. Nestural Telent 12-1 7 ran. 8. 5. (J. J. O'Noël, Penrith). Totes 2150; 2140. Dual Forecast: 2218. Non Runner: Forrest Title.

2.30: 1. MY MAN IN DUNDALK (R Supple) 25-1; 2. Harn N°Eggs 5-4 fay; 3. Jack Yeste 9-2. 5 ran. 7, 1%, (C Grant, Billingham). Tota: 22740; 2440, 2140. OF: 22720. CSF: 25172. NS: Potato Man.

3.00: 1. GLENBOWER (Mr C Bonner) evene tay; 2. Gueens Brigade 4-1; 3. Astro Lines 7-4. 5 ran. 2, 78. (M Hammond, McCleinand, Tota: C180; 2110, 2240. DF: 2520. CSF: 2552.

3.30: 1. EIRESPRAY (Richard Guest) 11-

CSF: 25.52 3.30: 1. EIRESPRAY (Richard Guest) 11-8 Jt tay: 2. Sniper 14-1; 3. Alde Memoire 18-1. 8 ran. 11-8 Jt tay Burnt Imp (4th). 2½, 24. (Mrs S Smith; Bingley). Tota: 22.30; 21.50, 22.20: DF: 58.80. CSF: 198.77. 4.00: 1. PALACE OF GOLD (W Dowling) 7-2 jt tay; 2. Etternal City 20-1; 3. Railegio 7-2 jt tay, 10 ran. 3½, 2. (L. Lungo, Carutherstown). Tota: 25.60; 21.90, 22.90, 23.10. DF: 263.20. CSF: 259.77. Tricant: 22.3714. Tric: 252.40.

3.20: 1. CHERRYNUT (Mr J Tezzard) B-1; 2. Linton Rocks 4-1; 3. Mister Drum t2-16 ran. 10-11 fav Misterof Rivers. 1%, dat (P Nicholls). Totac 27:30; E2:80, £140. DF: £100.0 CSF: £40:8. 3.50: 1. FERRUFINO (M Griffiths) 11-1; 252-40.
4.30: 1. PETER (B Herding) 7-4; 2. Ferney Glen 7-1; 3. Cellidh Boy 9-2. 4 ran. 11-8 fav Dorin Castle (set). 9, 9. (0 Whilene, Hawigt) Totas 22.30 DF: 2300 CSF; 210.52 NR: Better Times Aheed.

5.00: 1. BUNTHYNE SPECIAL (R Supple) 7-4; 2. Steel Rigg 100-1; 3. Rosemer 5-1 6 ran. II -10 few Gue Cumingham. 4.2%.

(L Lungo, Carrutherstown). Total: 53.0; 53.50, 215.0. DF: \$38.50, CSF: \$278.73. 2. Secret Service 10.1; 3. Alice International 7-2, 7 ran. 2-1 fev Dines. 2, 5, (P Rioft), Totac 51370; 5230, 5350, 0F: 52250, GSF: 52098. 4.20: 1. SOMETOY (Mars. L Blackford) 4-4.20: 1. SOME-TOY (Mark I. Blackford) 4-1; 2. Chiem 9-4; 3. Young Brave 5-1 & ran. 1-8 fav Nodform Wonder (#1), 1/k, dist. (John Squire). Tota: £720; £180, £150. DF: £500. CSF: £1258. 4.50: 1. MISTER GENEROSITY (M Richards) 33-1; 2. Win A Hand 40-1; 3. Brush With Fame 20-1; 4. Walter's Des-thy 11-2. 20 ran. 4-1 fav Ruby Two Shoes. 1/k, 4. (C Weedon). Tota: £4960; £580. £1090. £540. DF: £7430. CSF: £9172. In-cest: £215678 This £195200 (pert won pool of FR2.70. Candoot \$42.70.

TOWCESTER 2.10: 1. ROYAL SHREWSBURY (Michael Brumman) 10-1: 2. Outlet Moments 9-2 (av; 3. South West Express 14-1: 4. Sold Lasp 2-1: 16 ran. 10.2%, Min Marita Jones, Lam-boum) Totas £1480; £300; £140. £360; £250. Dual Forecast £9400. CSF: £52.52. Tricast £91052. Tric: £21730. Non Runner: Weaver Screen.

2.40: 1, RAMALLAH (J Culoty) Ti-10 tay; 2. Feehlon Makker 25-1; 3. Man of The Match 7-2 6 ran. 6, 25 (Mise H Knight, Wen-tage), Totac 22:0; CLAO, C240, C150, DF: 57280, CSF: \$2555, Tricx \$2040, Non Run-riers: Boots Madden, Glaciel King, Teeton

Thomas. 3.10: 1. NESSUN DORO (Chris Webb) 2-1 farz - Glarmerin 10-1; 3. Hawthorns Glen 4-1. 6 ran. 2, 4. (S Medic: Swindon). Rois: 6270; £160, £320, £120. DF: £850, CSF. £2206. Tricast: £7197.

NATIONAL HUNT FESTIVAL '98 17TH • 18TH • 19TH MARCH

THURSDAY COMPLETELY SOLD OUT TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR TUES/WEDS CLUB 260 TATTERSALLS 225 COURAGE 210

CHELTENHAM

RACECOURSE

INDEPENDENT **RACING SERVICES** 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS 971 981 SANDOWN 972 MARKET RASEN 973 983 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970 Call that Ship per values. T.L.S. pt., Sco

cast: \$21397/B Trio: \$1992/D (part won, pool of \$194545 to Sandown 450).
5.20: 1. PREMIER BAY (R Durwoody) 5-

1: 2. Lannkaran 7-4 inv: 3. iamus 7-2 16

ran. 2'h, 7 (P Hobbs), 'Robe: 2530; £230, £180, £220. DF: £130. GSF: £1294. Tric: £1310. NRs: Beano Script, Crimemon Cub.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £1457947 carried forward to Sendown today).
Placepot: £140100. Quadpot: £51280.
Place 6: £245856. Place 6: £93330.

decant mark for his 6mt handicap. Mountain Path did well in defy 11 st 10to in his first handicap at Whoteror where he stayed clear of Westing William and Workingforpeanuts (vinner on Wechesday). A subsequent detect in testing ground over a longer hip in the Unionater race won by Kendel Caussier can be accused, and he should go close today even under 12st. Experiences IV was all out to best Amazon Lify at Pumpton test north and the form was revented on 7th different terms behind Calleva Star on the same course. This mans may find the other two a bit too good at these weights. Bellymichael was creating the amart Bengers Moor when he clouded the fourth-last at Wincanton hast firm. The stable's honese are coming good and this gelding cannot be discourted over todays, larger trip with a low weight. Knight's Creat has a chance of clong better effect entire profiled up when securities at Newbury a week ago. The ground was very testing there and Knight's Creat was in contention when he depend at the first down the back straight in Swing Cuarteds race here previously. That Boses, a casualty at Doncester a week ago, best Fed On Odds on the course in November, but this gelding has had his training problems and, along with Taunton, where Spring To Glory, makes Itale appeal.

Selection: NEAPLY AN EYE 4.50 Relative Chance GOING: Chases - Good (Good to Soft in places); Hurdes - Good to Soft (Good in places).

• Right-hand course; seven testing fences along back straight; run-in of 300/rd.

• Course is on A307, 4m & of Kingeton. Esher station (service from London, Weiserloo) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Cub 216, Junior Cub (17 - 21 yrs) £12; Grandstand & Pactock Eft); Park enclosure £5 CAR PARIC. Free.

• LEADING THAINERS: 1) Nicholson - 24 winners from 98 runners gives a success ratio of 25.8%; J Gitlord 17 from 140 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (28%); N Handerson 12 from at 12.8%; 94 (125%).

© LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durnwoody 27 wins from 112 rides gives a success ratio of 241%; A Maguine 20 from 89 (22.5%); M A Fitzgerald 13 from 114 (114%); C Massie 2 from 34 (235%).

FAVOURITES: (31 wins in 353 races (371%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Manhattan Prince (310 ); Roseball (450). 2.00 BUSHY PARK 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 110yds Panelty Value £2,983

HYPERION

2.35 KNIGHT'S CREST (nap) 4.15 Braes Of Mar

Andantio is in a week race with a planety and some of his old bumper ability was on show at Kempton leaf time when he cruised typms from Elgacund. He could well follow up, but CLOSE HARMONY has promised to be a bit decent and gets the weight. This mare may not hose shown her best at Huntingdon lest time – the third time this state as a sound effort and the stable won the opening novice on the Fridely at the last meeting with Mountain Storm. Brownes Hill Lad has got little chance with the double penalty, while Cheating The Moon wouldn't be an obvious winner on this first start since October. Kurakter remains a Biosh type for the race after running over a longer tip here last time when third to Good Lord Murphy — his promising debut-second to Zeraleskie at Ascot remaining in the memory. Storm Forecast is enother with a chance it discounting the poor showing behind Down Leader at Challenham last time — and the stable won this race last year — but Noble Ashiete needs to improve to collect.

Selection: CLOSE HARMONY

2.35 WORCESTER PARK NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £3,534 25-25 MOUNTAIN PAITH (34) (D) (A Spealman) N Handardon 6 20 MA PR
PASSU TRAIL BOSS (7) (C) (D) (Natro Broughter) Mart H Night 7 11 9
11-37 NEARLY AN EYE (14) (D) (F Burbook) (Rogiffay) P Notobs 7 11 8 Mr J 7 8
134-P1 SPRING TO GLORIY (22) (D) (A J Byran) P Haymard 7 11 1
10P33 ESPERANZA N (11) (D) (BF) (M Roberts M Roberts 3 10 S
0-0CFP (NIGHT'S CREST (7) (BF) (G Hubby) R Dickin 6 10 9
10 NIGHT S CREST (7) (BF) (G Hubby) R Dickin 6 10 9
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-7 declared EETTING: 5-2 Keight's Cress, 3-1 Nearly An Eye, 7-2 Mountain Petis, 5-1 Trail Boes, 6-1 Esperanza NJ, 16-1 Ballymichael, 12-1 Spring To Glory
1897: Parlamentarian 8 10 0 J A McCarrby 18-1 (I Casen) 6 ram
FORM GUIDE
With Joey Tizzard taking off 5th, NEARLLY AN EVE can beat Mountain Path getting 11 b.
He gained a bloodless win at Kampton less time-that run coming after a three-month rest.
He was a promising three-times point-to-point winner less seeson and could just be on a

OZTE GOOD LORD MURPHY (25) (CD) (SP) (Country Side) P Hobbs 6 to 1 2 ... A Dermoon 1-4-th ERROTHER OF BHS (51) (at H G Systems Ltd) Ma M Reveloy 6 to 7 ... P Not 1-4-th ERROTHER OF BHS (51) (at H G Systems Ltd) Ma M Reveloy 6 to 7 ... P Not 1-4-th ERROTHER OF BHS (51) (at H G Systems Ltd) Ma M Tourier 6 to 1 2 ... A Keverel P P P C CONTROL (51) (b) (at H m bury) N Headescon 5 to 2 ... N Williams ITS WORTH A BOS (Ale A M Marrey) O Sherwood 6 to 2 ... M Richael (14) (25) (Ale S BANKER, 81) (LE H Colley) N Hardwayn 7 to 2 ... M A P Roger 6 to 1 2 ... C Llevelly N Hardwayn 7 to 2 ... M A P Roger 6 to 1 2 ... C Llevelly N Hardwayn 7 to 2 ... C Llevelly 1 (Ale Jean R Estrop) O Sherwood 6 to 2 ... C Llevelly 1 (Ale Jean R Estrop) O Sherwood 6 to 2 ... C Llevelly 1 (Ale Jean R Ball (15) (A

4 SUN ALERT (17) (KS Led) M Polymer 4 10 2...... - 10 declared -— 10 declared —

10 d

#15 factioned \*\*

BETTHIC: 11-2 Directly Detail, 3-1 Supporter Fiding, 9-2 Directions, 6-1 Saning Description, 16-1 Silver Stock, 14-1 Topolog Along, Dark House, 18-1 Jakonson, Benkulbin, 20-1 others

SECT Act To Many 8

3.20 JAMES BARCLAY MEMORIAL HANDI-CAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3m 110vds

M Smith 50 JOKENS CHARM (with 1 second 7 if 6 A Doctor
05 KRINDALDO (158) C Parker 6 if 8 B Storry
38-64 THE CLIENT (30) S Kirk (h) 7 Tr 6 R Hoghes
P ALMEY NESSEE (27) J Golde 6 if 6 R MoGrafin (2)
053 HELM WHID (16) M Bernes 5 if 3 S Taylor (2)
0-073 DRINOVATE (47) MES L Russel 6 if 6 The Storry
D PAPENBACK WHITER (26) G White 9 if 3 Mir L Temple (7)
5806 STORM CALL (596) D Whiters 7 if 6 J Jardine (7)

A-400 SEDVICTA (22) (D) Mas M Reveloy 6 10 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_ -8321 CASH BOX (76) (CD) T Cast 10 10 7 .\_\_\_\_

— 13 declared — BETTING: 9-4 The Client, 11-4 Arabich, 7-1 Canden Moon, Halm Wind, 9-1 Kindaloo, 16-1 Innovate, 14-1 Dance, 18-1 others 2.45 ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m

4.25 AYRSHIRE AG ASSOC HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,800 added 2m 5f 110yds 221-SI HOWAYMAN (25) K Ardeson 6 25 \_ Mr K Andeson (5) P/S-5 TARTAN TRADEWINDS (20) (C) G Fichards (1) 2.5 \_\_\_\_\_

BETTING: 7-4 British, 5-2 Costs Box, 3-1 Sadvicts, 4-1 Attachein

3.55 ARTHUR CHALLENGE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f STEP JYMLAM JOHNOY (41) CC) (D) JJ OTNET B 22 D P Carberry SUFF2 MICHOLAS PLANT (27) (CD) J Golde F 11 10 \_\_\_ 8 Teylor (5) 25-25\* MR KNITHET (27) (CD) P Manisch 11 11 8.\_\_\_\_ A Dobbin QVPS TITAN THAI (16) (C) (A) Manisch 11 10 8.\_\_\_\_ J Callegheo —4 declared — BETTING: 13-6 Mr Knitsell, 3-1 Jympen Johnny, Micholes Pless, 7-2 Then

PSU-IP BORDER GLORY (23) W M Scott 7 to 12 \_\_\_\_\_Mr R Ford (5)
P41-35 BUTCKS DELISHT (14) Mrs R Arthur 10 to 2 \_\_\_\_\_Mr M Bractburne (5)
SSSS-P DONSIDE (47) G White 10 to 12 \_\_\_\_\_Mr M Bractburne (5)
FIS-FS HAMLEYS CALL (25) J Hughes 5 to 8 \_\_\_\_Mr R Morgen (7)
UB1-45 ARCTIC LEADER (35) A Gildrent 6 to 7 \_\_\_\_Mr L Temple (7)
21/26- LOYE ACTINGUM (357) Mrs C Arnos 7 to 7. Mr B Gibson (7) BETTING: evens Howeyman, 9-4 Texton Tradewinde, 11-2 Buck's Delight 15-1 Bender Glory, Artile Lander, 20-1 Love Actinium, 33-1 others

5.00 LOCH ENDCH NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 

#### Market Rasen

Ayr

GOING: Soft (Heavy patches)

Left-hand galloping course

HYPERION 1.50 Dutch Dyane 2.25 Neltegrity 3.00 Torn Silk 3.30 Pettaugh 4.05 Super Rapler 4.40 Vital Witness 5.10 Belisario

2.10 The Client 2.45 Welsh March 3.20 Birkdale

3.55 Mr Knitwit 4.25 Howayman 5.00 Manful

● Lent-hand gatoping course.

● Course is E of town on A758. Ayr station (service from Glasgow) Im. ADMISSION: Club & Grandstand EZ. CAR PARKS Free.

● LEADING TRAINERS: G Richards 34 wirners from 170 runners (20%), Mrs M Revetey 31-163 (203%), J J O'Nelli 22-122 (15%), P Montakin 18-137 (133%).

● LEADING JOCKEYS: A Dobbin 37 wins from 178 rides (21%), B LEADING JOCKETS: A Booker of (11%), R Supple 10-45 (222%), rey 27-179 (51%), T Reed 14-126 (111%), R Supple 10-45 (222%), FAVOURITES: 178 wins from 409 races (43.5%).

2.10 LOCH DOON 'NH' MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,500 added 2m

42U02 ANSLINCH (13) J Berry 5 11 8 \_\_\_\_\_\_ D Parter 6-56 CAMDEN MOON (6) (D) J Planson 5 71 8 \_\_\_\_\_ R Gambly

GOTING: Good to Soft (Soft in straight on Chase course).

Right-hand, sharp, uncluding circuit. Fun-in of one furing.
Course is east of town on ASSI. Market Reson station (Lincoln - Grimply Iron). In ADMISSIONE Cult 23; Estersals 29 (OAP methodistricts). bers of courses Jubice Club neil price); Silver Ring 55 (Jubice OAPs itali pros). CAR PARIK: picrio areas 52, remainder free.

Itali pros). CAR PARIK: picrio areas 52, remainder free.

© LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveloy 23-700 (23%), K Morgan
5-20 (125%), Mrs S Smith 12-97 (124%), P Beaumont 8-49 (124%).

© LEADING JOCKEYS: A S Smith 20-140 (143%), A P McCoy 15-49 (E27%). A Maguine 15-73 (219%). L Wyer 15-94 (17%).

• FAVOURITES: 207 wins from 597 races (247%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Se Brave (405). 1.50 FARMERS DAY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) \$2,000 2m 1f 110yds HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,000 2m 11 1 10y08 5 6 M broken 0 2 A P McCoy ON MERT (28) J H Johnson 5 20 A P McCoy ON MERT (28) J H Johnson 5 20 A P McCoy ON MERT (29) 8 Gelling 0 2 A P McCoy ON MERT (21) 8 McGoy ON MERT (21) 8 Mc

— 9 Gestietet Athlerum weight: 10st. Trus handless neight: Dino's Mistel 98(12b). BETTHKS: 9-4 Datch Dyans, 2-1 Arhites Sus, 7-2 Christian Stitz, 6-1 Dino's Bilatral, 10-1 Noultaci, 12-1 Needwood Muticis, 14-1 Cobis, 23-1 Others 2.25 KANSAS' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 1f 110yds

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5 3/5-32 SPARROW HALL (5) Mrs J Buddey II 25 Jair C Medical (7)
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7 (28-22 WITAL WITNESS (20) D Ingle II 25 Jail Mrs F Needward Jokes, 8-1
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Graf: New experience

# Ice-maiden Graf warms to life as a sentimental favourite

Open and Wimbledon, which falls the week after her 29th birthday on 14 June, Steffi Graf is adamant that she has oothing to prove, oot even to herself. "My goal is to eojoy what I am doing out there," she said yesterday, "everything else, I have done before."

The former world No 1.is second only to Australia's Margaret Court, who leads the German 24-21 in terms of Grand Slam singles titles. "I want to do well at the Grand Slam tour-

that I believe I can get close to."

Graf was addressing quesor to her match last night against Lindsay Davenport, the American world No 2, in the semi-finals of the Evert Cup at Indian Wells, California. It is only the second tournament Graf has played since undergoing knee surgery after losing to Amanda Coetzer in quarter-finals of the French Open last June.

Defeated by Sabine Appel-

WHILE determined to return to the showpieces of the French to the showpieces of the show injury she was the world No 3, the changing role of and the WTA Tour decided that tions during a conference call pri- this would be Graf's status for the a tennis champion purpose of seeding when she made a comeback. The position will be reviewed during her next tournament, the Lipton Championships at Key Biscayne, Flori-

da, which start next Thursday. Graf is entitled to regard every match she completes without physical mishap as a boous; particularly bearing in not asking myself to win any spe- on the Roof, and went to the cirmind the fears that her career mans last month in the third might have been over when she naments, that is for sure," Graf round of her comeback event in missed Wimhledoo and the

turned underdog

United States Open last year and was unable to compete at the Australian Open at the beginning of this year.

don't fall into place, because I And I spent a lot of time at nervous in the start of my

for improvement. I still think that I will be able to move friends and my dogs." around the court better and curity around my game."

Her months of rehabilitation in Austria were relieved by interesting diversions. "I spent a lot of time close to Vienna. I kept myself busy going to plays, "I'm happy with the way it or going to concerts. I saw U2 is going," Graf said, "but I am and I saw David Bowie, Fiddler

best I can. I have a lot of room friends and meeting new people, finally having time for my

Perceived as imperturbable probably find a little more se-during a record number of 374 weeks as the world No 1 and when winning Wimbledon on seven occasions. Graf is now experiencing the strange sensation of being o sentimental favourite.

"It has been extremely emotional," she said. "People have been so supportive, saying they love for me to be back and hope cific tournaments and I am not cus. I went to galleries and to I am going to make it. I have going to be unhappy if things a great exhibition in Vienna. been a little emotional and

am trying and I can only try the home, actually making oew matches, but then I seem to find somebody who was very nervous or anxious to go out there, but that has changed a little.

"It has been a little bit intimidating playing with the crowd behind you, at least in the beginning, when you walk on the court and people are cheering for you, especially in Hannover, and here during the first match. It has been different, and it makes me think what I went through in the last few months to get to that point, and that kind of makes me happy to be able to go through a moment like that."

#### **Everton** agree fee for Sierra

Football

By Alan Nixon

HOWARD KENDALL has set up a £3m deal to sign the Chilean international, Jose Luis Sierra. The Everton manager has agreed a fee of £1.7m for the 29year-old Colo Colo midfielder, who featured prominently in his country's receot victory over England at Wembley.

Kendall hopes to complete the deal over the weekend. though his Astoo Villa counterpart, John Gregory, is also interested. There is no need to apply for a work permit for Sierra as be has an Italian passport.

West Ham have admitted interest in another Chilean, the tough-tackling defender Javier Margas. It is unlikely be will be able to sign in time to beat the transfer deadline, though.

Bolton are trying to sign the Wolves striker, Doo Goodman, whose goal put Leeds out of the FA Cup last week, in a swap deal for Jamie Pollock, who has told Todd he wants to leave quickly. He is rated at around £700,000.

If Crystal Palace are intent on signing Paul Gascoigne, they may find themselves with little opposition. The competitioo was dropping away yesterday.

Middlesbrough's manager, Bryan' Robson, dismissed reports that he wanted to buy the England midfielder, saying, "I wish I had the money."

Although Robson might yet be interested in a loan deal to e Gascoione to the Riverside until the end of the season, Everton and Derby have ruled themselves out of the chase.

Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea manager, has found a way to accommodate the first-team aspirations of his two goalkeepers. Ed de Goey will play in the Cup-Winners' Cup ties and Coca-Cola Cup final, with Dimitri Kharin.

appearing in Premiership games. Chelsea's captain, Dennis Wise, has received a two-match ban from the Football Association for collecting 11 bookings this season. He will miss the Premiership games at West Ham and Derby.

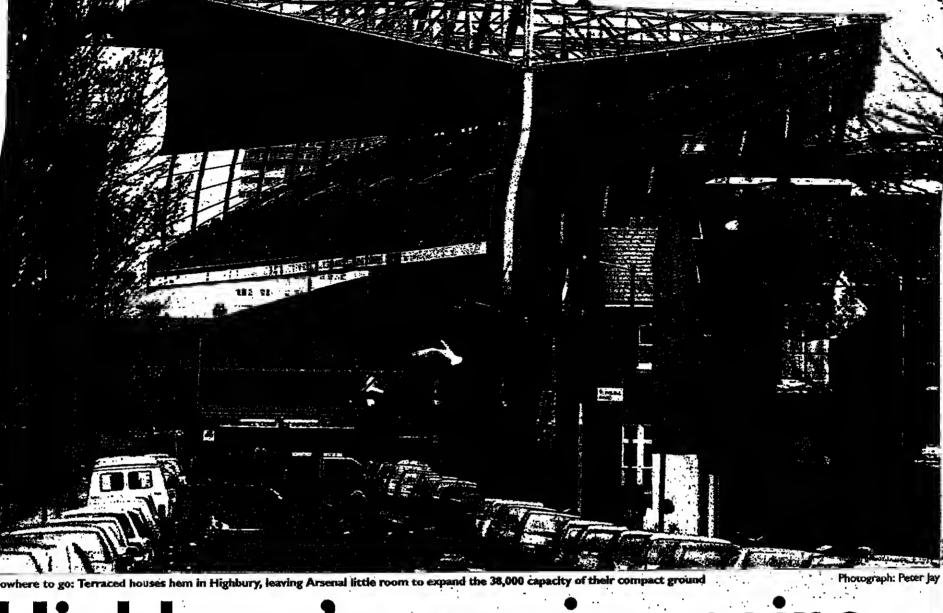
Everton's Croatian international defender Slaven Bilic has been given a three-match suspension. Bilic was sent off during the 2-I defeat at Southampton last weekend.

Neville Southall, Everton's kong-serving goalkeeper, is set to become the player-coach at Stoke City, The Weishman will leave Goodison Park on a free transfer after 16 years.

West Bromwich Albion are hoping to complete the signing of Manchester City's Australian defender, Jason van Blerk, for £250,000.

The Wales coach, Bobby Gould, has appointed Graham Williams as his assistant. coaching career in the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

name their new manager today, this week. Beck is planning to take the club to court, claiming



# lighbury's growing pains

ARSENAL may or may not set up bome beneath Wembley's Twin Towers, but one thing is plain. They have outgrown Highbury. This is a club which measures itself oot against Chelsea or even Spurs. The yardstick is Manchester United, or the foreign aristocrats like Milan, Bavern or Real Madrid - and for a club that sees itself as a founder member of any European Super League the comparisoo is shau-

San Siro in Milan holds 75,000, Old Trafford 56,000, and Highbury just 38,000. United's turnover of £88m for the 1996-97 scasoo eclipsed Arsenal's £27.2m; its gate receipts, at £30m, were three times as great. Very quickly, this translates into the power to pay the wages needed to maintain a top-class squad. Ultimately Arsenal will simply be unable to compete.

Basically there are four options: do nothing (and invite second-class status); adopt a minimalist "fill-in-the-corners" solution at Highbury, that would lift capacity to 45,000 but leave the ground's "footprint" intact: rip down the existing South and West Stands and remake Highbury a state-of-the-Williams has had a 25-year art stadium holding 50,000 or more; or move elsewhere.

Among possible destioa-Lincoln City are expected to tions, the two front-numers are a "brown field" site on derelict following John Beck's sacking land oear King's Cross Station, costing perhaps £75m, or Wembley, for which Arseoal is re-

Double the year before. And then there is geotrifi-

But why, it may be asked, all the fuss about crowds of 55,000 wheo in the pre-Taylor days, crowds of 60,000 plus for hig games were commooplace? One answer is that, in fact, average attendances used to be lower than is foodly remembered. The expectation now is that a 55,000-capacity ground would be sold out for every game, he it against Liverpool, Manchester United or Barnsley. By cootrast, Arsenal attracted only 41,000-per game in 1971-72, despite having won the

cation. Not only the gentrificatioo of football, as terraces once reeking of beer and urine have been turned into family-friendly seated enclosures and the Premiership has been transformed into one of the most glamorous leagues in the world. But also, more problematically, the gen-Ah, Wembley. There is not a football crowd that has not sung wistfully of going there. The name conjures the World Cup win of 1966, 39 steps to exclusion or despair and, when the romantic trimmings have been stripped away, a stadium that is ill-equipped for the 21st century.

Outdated and uncomfortable compared to modern grounds in Bittain and abroad, it has needed a facelift for decades, something that will be addressed if the plans to renovate Wembley to become the national standlum are fulfilled. It was due to close next.

to join the kings of Europe. Rupert Cornwell reports trification of the neighbourhoods around Highbury too. Blairland N1 is but a mile away, a nice terraced house in N5 can months wages for Dennis Bergkamp. Had Highbury re-

would have gone through on the nod. But these are residents who demand a quality of life to match their mortgage. They are, for instance, unamused at having their streets takeo over by the cars that

porter's preferred mode of transport, and render their streets unusable twice at weekends and a couple of evenings fetch £350,000-plus - fully three a month. "It's a bit like a siege," says Alison Carmichael of the Highbury Community Association (HCA) which is leading mained the working-class prethe residents' revolt. "You get serve of yesteryear, expansioo big cars with chauffcurs, who keep the engines running for

Arsenal's London palace is

too small for a club aiming

side the ground." And, the HCA wonders. would 50,000 or 55,000 be the end of it? Ken Friar, Arsenal's have replaced the bus and un- managing director, has let slip derground as the modern sup- a guess that the club's potential

two hours while their boss is in-

regular attendance could be as high as 65,000.

It is only 10 years since the old. Clock End was redeveloped, and just five since the gorgeous £20m stand which replaced the North Bank opened for business. And now, talk of another makeover. Who's to say that a few years down the line, especially if a European Super League takes off, Arsenal don't come back asking

for another 10,000 scats? But even filling in the corners, or rebuilding the West and South sides of the ground is only part of the story. The pitch itself, at 110 yards by 73 yards, is one of the smallest in the Premiership. ineligible for international senal manager, has lamented a playing area "made for old English football... Teams come to Highbury and defend deep and wait for mistakes... Long ball, good header, deflection, goal."

prospect of moving. It is by no means certain that the bid for Wembley will succeed, but if it does it poses the question as to what would become of Highbury. The council is keen that it remains a leisure facility, so a lucrative housing redevelopment would appear to be games. Arsene Wenger, the Ar- ruled out - though even if that were allowed one estimate is that the land is worth only around £10m. One intriguing alternative has been mooted recently: that Arsenal sell the stadium to Wimbedon, currently billeted

That is oot the style Wenger

likes to play, though some would

say it brought George Graham

a pile of silverware. In any ma-

jor rebuilding, the pitch would be

both widened and lengthened.

Some 30 houses immediately

behind the West Stand would be

demolished - several of them

communities of elderly tenants

living alooe, terrified at the

at Crystal Palace's Selhurst Park. That would surely risk alienating Arsenal's local support and, all other things heing equal, the chib would like to stay at Highbury, its home since 1913. But a long wrangle looms with Islingtoo council and local residents, even assuming permission finally is granted for an expansion that would satisfy the club. The oeatest solution would be King's Cross, relatively close and with excellent transport links. But again, traffic problems could thwart it. The siege of the chauffeurs is set to

#### Rusedski recovers his touch

GREG RUSEDSKI recovered his composure to heat the American Vinceot Spadea in three sets and move ioto the third round of the ATP Chantpions' Cup in Indian Wells, Cal-

ifornia. Rusedski, the British No.1 who is seeded six, lost the first set and was 2-0 down in the second before he began to wear down his unseeded op-ponent and triumph 4-6, 6-3,

"I believe I can get back from any position now," said Rused-ski, who next plays Carlos Moya. "I think I've solidified my game oo returns, I think I'm competing a lot better. That's the key right now. I'm down a set and a break, and I don't feel like I'm relying on my serve. I have other things that work for me."

The former world No 1 Jim Courier joined Andre Agassi on the comeback trail, surviving two match points to oust the fifth seed, Jonas Bjorkman.

Courier, hampered since last summer by an arm injury. has seen his ranking fall to 46, his lowest since 1989. After an indifferent first set, he turned on some of his old power, survived two match poiots and woo 4-6, 6-I, 7-6.

Agassi, who has improved from 141 in the world to No 40 in just six weeks, continued his poward climb with a 6-2, 6-4 vicfory over the 14th seed, Sergi Bruguera.

Martina Hingis dug her way out of a second-set hole to pull off a straight-sets victory over Conchita Martinez in the quarter-finals of the Evert Cup. which is also being played in Indian Wells.

Hingis, the top seed, won the first set easily theo fell behind 5-1 in the second but reeled off six straight games to win 6-1, 7-5 and advance to a semi-final encounter with the eighth-seed-

ed American Veous Williams. In the day's other quarter-final, second seed and defending champioo Lindsay Davenport defeated unseeded Americao Sandra Cacic 6-1, 7-5 and advanced to play Steffi Graf.

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#### Betts back in Wigan squad

Rugby League By Dave Hadfield

WIGAN will have the ideal boost for their Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final against St Helens with the first appearance of Denis Betts since

his return to the club. Betts has been out since tearing shoulder muscles playing for the Auckland Warriors in last year's World Club Championship, but he has been added to the squad for Sunday - and could eve ostart the match if Henry Paul fails a test on a calf injury.

"It's a hit of a risk playing him without previously having a game," the Wigan coach. John Monic, said. "But if you were going to take that risk with anyone, it would be with Denis Betts. He will give the other guys a lift just by being there."

Monie's plan is that Betts should start on the bench, but he could even be prompted to the starting lioc-up if Paul fails to recover from his injury,

If Paul is ruled out, Monie will move his captain. Andy Farrell, to stand-off, with either Betts or the promising Lec Gilmour coming into the back row of the pack.

The other change sees the winter signing from the London Broncos, Tony Mestrov, start in the front row in place of Noil Cowie, who drops to the beneft.

Cowie has been penalised for a sub-standard showing a Dewsbury in the last round.

#### dum are fulfilled. It was due to close next. In 1924 and it is summer for the £240m facelift and re-open; Eld, a completely modernised, in 2002. Wernstey to be contact the facelift and re-open; Eld, a completely modernised, in 2002. Even in its is current state however it is supported. mpletely modernised, in 2002. Even in its is current state, however, it is a who first in the current state. putedly bidding up to £100m. Klinsmann's escape clause

TOTTENHAM'S Jürgen Klins- clause in my contract. The playmann saga rumbled on vesterday, ers know about it but I have nevwith the German international emphasising the must-play clause Christian Gross, insisted on his right to drop Klinsmann.

end of the season, reiterated yesterday that be has a clause in his contract stating he cannot be dropped.

er talked about it very much." The pair had a stand-up row in his contract, while his coach, in the players' tunnel after Spurs' game against Bolton 11 days ago when Klinsmann told the Swiss

Klinsmann, signed until the coach his tactics were all wrong. "If I'm not satisfied with his. commitment and his approach 1 will drop him," Gross said. "It is not a dilemma for me. There "Io theory I could say I was may be a game in which for a leaving immediately and I would tactical reason I leave him out

something like that. He woo't leave Tottenham before the end of his contract.

"I have never had such an agreement with any player before but told him when I went out to Italy to sign him that I needed him as a leader. I agreed to the clause in his contract because I never

imagined I would drop him. "But he shouldn't talk to the media about his contract because he is putting himself under even more pressure. He is under get a free transfer," he told a but I think he is adult enough an obligation Swiss newspaper. "I have this and intelligent enough to accept from him." an obligation and we need goals

Non-League notebook By Rupert Metcalf

WHILE Arsenal are boping to play at Wembley for commercial reasons, twelve chibs will tomorrow try to take the more traditional route to the Twin Towers - a route where pride and dreams matter more than money. The FA Umbro Trophy reaches the quarter-final stage while the first-leg games in the FA Carlsberg Vase semi-finals

also take place.

sides from the Screwfix Direct of the Vase prevail. The rton en- have three players, Scott Dun-

Both Tiverton and Taunton could probably hold their own in the GM Vauxhall Conference from County Durham to Som- Dover. The Cumbrians may but both have chosen to turn erset will make a change from even have more supporters than down opportunities for pro- the road to Suffolk - they have the home team at the Crahhle

Western pair have Twin Towers within sight The capital will see the League for geographical and Sudbury Wanderers in the last biggest invasion from the West economic reasons. They are two rounds. They will hope to march 12 days ago if the two ley - but it will not be easy. Kidsgrove, from Stafford-

are also at home tomorrow, to . Batho, who have struck an amazing 79 goals between them in all competitions this season.

Country since the Countryside the favourites to reach Wemb- do enough at Tauntoo to keep the tie alive for the second leg tomorrow week at their Iron-Western League in the last four shire, are prolific scorers. They works Road ground - in what one Suffolk oewspaper detertain Kidsgrove while Taunton das, Paul Kiely and Richard scribed this week as "virtual bandit country" In the Trophy, Barrow fans

will be filling at least 13 coach-For Tow Law, the long trip. es for the hoge journey to motioo from the Western put out Sudbury Town and ground on the Kent coast.

# Arwel out as Bowring reshuffles

Rugby Union

Y Chris Hewett

THERE'S gratitude for you. Kevin Bowring, the Welsh national coach, has repaid Arwel Thomas for his match-winning performance against Scotland by blowing him out of the squad for the Dragons' next Five Nations encounter in Dublin tomorrow week. Given that the gloriously unpredictable Swansea stand-off saved Bowring's bacon at Wembley six days ago, he must be feeling just a little non-plussed by the latest turn of events.

Neil Jenkins, whose early departure from the Scottish fray groved once and for all that a inely smack over the left eyebrow can be a better career move than 11 points with the boot and a try-scoring pass, reclaims the No 10 shirt while Byron Hayward, the outside-half from Ebbw Vale, is on the bench. One further change sees Stuart Davies, the in-form Swansea No 8. replace Scott Quinnell among the replacements.

"Control is extremely important and both Byron and Stuart provide that element," said Bowring by way of explanation. He did not mention class, vision skills, all of which are habitually provided by both Thomas and Quinnell. Pragmatic, yes, but acver happened to the spirt of adventure?

At least Clive Woodward is backing himself to take a few calculated risks and push back the boundaries of Test selection. The England coach named a 27man squad for the Calcutta Cup confrontation with the Scots in Edinburgh oo Sunday week and while two Newcastle veterans, Tony Underwood and Dean Ryan, carned themselves unexpected recalls, the presence of their teenage clubmate. Jon.,

wilkinson, created more of a stir. -The 18-year-old outside-half has featured amongst the England élite before but, this time,

he is one of only two goal-kickers in the party. There was no word from Woodward oo the potential make up of his final 22-man squad but it is possible that despite his almost complete lack of Premiership experience, Wilkinson will sit on the Murrayfield bench as cover for Paul

Ryan's promotion, just reward for some uncompromising in-your-face displays over recent weeks, may be strictly temporary, both Tony Diprose and Tim Rodber are ahead of the Newcastle captain in the race to fill the back-row gap left by the injured Richard Hill

On the political front, Fran Cotton, vice-chairman of the Rugby Football Union management board, vesterday issued a passionate defence of the "Club England" document that has sent the owners of the leading Premiership outfits into paroxysms of unrestrained fury. There are a great deal of common objectives between us and they need to be discussed," he said, "It is not my intention to see the clubs go out of business."

Cotton did however, reassert his plan to sign all leading players on RFU contracts and that, in itself, guaranteed a or consummate footballing prolonged punch-up hetween two deeply entrenched sides. "The tanks are lined up oo the battlefield but we can still reach a solution before the shelling starts," he insisted. A wonderful thing, optimism.

ENGLAND PREJAMARY SQUAD (1980)

Hours' Championahip's Scotland, Marzayili

22 March): Backer M Parry (Besh), I Basker

Fifth Test: England captain on the defensive as West Indies counterpart is quick to take initiative



#### Lara rewarded for faith in demon double act

AS HE has already shown in his brief tenure as captain, Brian Lara is not one to be moved by convention.

If the visual and historical evidence suggested that it was a gamble to spurn the advantage of the toss and bowl, rather than bat first, it was one he was prepared to take.

Ten times in the past 11 Tests at the ground, captains have taken the same option. Seven have ended up on the losing side, including Richie Richardson when England gained their memorable triumph against the odds at Kensington Oval the last time round. There have been three first-class matches here this season. The only time the skipper has chosen to bowl on winning the toss, Guyana amassed 435 against Barbados and comfortably won.

Even though England's batsmen have been unmistakably vulnerable to spin throughout the tour - to Carl Hooper and Dinanath Ramnarine in the TONY COZIER WEST INDIES VIEW

Tests, and the likes of Neil Mc-Garrell, Winston Reid and Terry Rollock in the territorial matches - he and his fellow selectors stuck to accepted practice at Kensington Oval.

Barbados is the spiritual ing. It is within the confines of its 166 square miles that many of the greats have been born and bred-Manny Martindale and Fleuman Griffith of a much éarlier time, Wes Hall and Charlie Griffith, Joel Garner and Malcolm Marshall of more recent vintage. It has become almost mandatory that a full quota of four bowlers who deal in speed are chosen here. Not since 1976 have the West

Indies diverted from that tactic. Once again, Lara's trusted

tiative and justified his during, Curtly Ambrose had the strange experience of a wicketiess opening spell but there is always Courtney Walsh to fill in when that happens. The Australians in the 1970s used to chantmenacingly. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust; if Lillee doesn't get you, Thomsoo must."

The same principle applies to the two great West Indians. home of West Indies fast bowl- Yet the fastest and most hostile assault in the morning was delivered by Nixon McLean. Of course, he has the youth on his side that Ambrose and Walsh no longer do, Tall and powerfully built, he was quite a handful.

The two successive bouncers that undid Nasser Hussain brought back vivid memories of the menacing West Indian attacks of the 1980s. Hussain just managed to sway out of the way of the first. He could not avoid the second, equally fast and accurate, and diverted it from his men did not let him down. By glove into the waiting slips.

#### Atherton reluctant to take risks

WHILE England's disastrous batting on the first morning may have lost them the fifth Test, the wretched decision to play Phil Tufnell and not the off-spinner Robert Croft had been made the night before. One heard that the captain refused to budge and in-

Mike Atherton's instincts have always been defensive and this decision provided a much more valid reason to hasten the search for a successor as captain than his poor form with the bat.

This was a match he had to do all he could to win. There are five left handers in the West Indies side and Croft is a more attacking bowler than Tufnell. He showed, too, in the Barbados game last weekend that this pitch will spin as the game goes on.

Apparently, the fellow sehave been negative. He want- of Spain in the third Test, he

HENRY BLOFELD

ed Tufneil so that he could bowl over the wicket into the rough outside the left-handers' offstumps and the right-handers' sisted on the left-arm spinner. mirable foil in this way to Angus Fraser four years ago.

So Atherton's mind was firmly fixed in the defensive mould from which he has seldom fought to break free. A packed ground - this match is . a sell-out -- is now doomed to long periods of boredom and stalemate as Tifnell has done nothing in this series than try and frustrate the batsmen into doing something stupid. In reply, the batsmen counter by continually kicking the ball away which bardly makes good watching.

What made Atherton's decision to drop Croft particulectors, David Lloyd and John Tarty disappointing was that so Emburey, wanted Croft but Mark has, with the greatest of Tufnell. His reasons can only When he won the toss in Port ing has been muddled almost

. This, it is true, may have been not so much a calculated risk by him as a decision he had forced on to him by a growing groundswell of opinion. England went on to win that Test by three wickleft stump. He had been an ad- ets and one hopes his decision would have given Athertoo the confidence to take a chance once more when the opportunity arose. Not a bit of it, and this inability to show any flexibility or even imagination must quicken the search for his successor. England are a poor side who need a strong guiding hand from a captain who leads by example from the front.

And would a captain who was hell-bent on levelling this series have played that wet and gormless hook at Courtney Walsh which gave Curtly Ambrose catching practice at fine leg? I did not blame Atherton for his first seven dismissals in this series, but the eighth was Atherton was adamant about reluctance, taken one risk. the act of a man whose think-

#### Veteran Puerto Rican next for Hamed at the Nynex

#### Boxing

NASEEM HAMED, the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, meets Wilfredo Vazquez, one of boxing's great survivors, at Manchester's Nynex Arena on 18 April.

The 37-year-old Puerto Rih's World Boxing Association will also be at stake, prod he is allowed to delay his adatory defence against ezuela's Antonio Cermeno.

manager, said yesterday: "The in March 1992. WBA meet in Atlantic City on Saturday and, hopefully, they will allow Wilfredo to defend against Hamed, especially as he has been such a credit to the WBA, winning world titles at three of their weights."

Vazquez, a professional for title bouts, won the WBA bantamweight championship from South Korea's Chan-Yong Park in October 1987 and took the super-bantamweight crown

Felix Zabala, Vazquez's from the Mexican, Raul Perez,

He then beat Eloy Rojas, of Venezuela for the featherweight title in May 1996 and has made four successful defences, the latest against Nicaragua's Geniro Rios last November.

Vazquez, who was in London for yesterday's media confer-17 years, 60 fights and 20 world- ence, said: "I believe Hamed is an excellent fighter with a strong punch. It will be a hard fight. When I have to fight, 1 do and when I have to box I can do that just as well."

Hamed was not present but sent a message via the promoter Frank Warren, saying: "I have the greatest respect for Wilfredo as a fighter, but he is going to get knocked out."

The pay-per-view Manchester hill will also feature the Philippines' Luisito Espinosa's defence of his World Boxing Council featherweight title against Cardiff's Steve Robinson and the WBO cruiserweight championship fight between Carl Thompson, of Manchester and Chris Eubank.

#### Ballesteros blown off course by Moroccan desert storm

By John Oaldey SEVE BALLESTEROS, battling against a freak gale which forced play to be suspended for 90 minutes, admitted he had no chance of victory after playing iust eight holes in the first

round of the Moroccan Open in Agadir yesterday. The Irishman Des Smyth had already equalled the course record of 64, eight under par,

in dead calm conditions to lead

Ballesteros had even begun his

The weather was still ideal as the 40-year-old Spanish veteran began with a birdie four at the 10th bole and he hit his drive down the 11th with no knowledge of what was to come.

But then the wind got up alarmingly and Ballesteros, from one under par after one hole, went to nine over just seven holes later, playing his first eight holes in 41 shots.

After play had been sus-

the field by three shots before pended because balls on the greens were moving as players prepared to putt, Ballesteros said: "It was fine playing the

> "It was hard to see. The sand was blowing into my face and at times I could see nothing. I was nine over for eight holes and I'm very disappointed because I have been playing very well. But now the tournament is over for me."

a sudden it was a hurricane.

Ballesteros, after a bogey at short 12th to be level par for comment.

three holes but then went 7, 5, 7, 4, 6, dropping nine shots in just five holes.

"It would not have been so 10th hole hut on the 11th all of bad if we had started in a gale," said Ballesteros, "because then you would have been mentally prepared. But to go out in ideal conditions and then this,

well it's impossible." Many players thought that the tournament director, David Garland, should have suspended play at least half an hour earthe 11th, managed to par the lier but Ballesteros refused to

#### orting Digest

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ANALOGUETE SERVE W W WOOD DI A Thorron 25-41. IR Constant to Custer S-12: R Consist DI II R Smith 19-13; A Marshall bit O Ward 22-13; O Gourtey bit II Harlow 19-15; A McCulloch bit T Alcock, 19-18. Scotland bit Iraliand 138-82 (Scotland aldge Brist); O Gourtey bit N Gooth 25-11; A McCullock bit G. McCullock Di II Robertson bit II Corida 28-12; R Cortile bit J Baker 22-17; A Marshall Di S Allen 25-13.

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Football

Lawrie McMenemy has named the Nigerien-born Dele Adebola in his Northern Ireland squad for his first match in charge against Slovakia, after he discovered the Einningham striker is qualified to play for any of the four home nations as a British passport holder.

Norwich City are to sign the veters striker Paul Wilkinson from Milwall. John Rudge, the Port Vale manager, is set to sign Duniermine's English cen-tre half Dave Barnett today. The de-fender is due to speak to Rudge about

a £1000000 move. NORTHERN IRELAND SOUAD (Friendly v Sto-valda, Windsor Park, Belfast, 25 March):

#### coughts (Newtoneth), Marcon (CRackburn); /coughts (Newtoneth), Marcon (CRAC), Petterson (Lutic), Rowtonet (CRR), Hill (Northerspoor), Jen Whitting (Manchester City), Learnes (West Flore), Lermon (Lebester), Baggiron (Shediloid Wednesday), Cilliangilo (Newtonetic), Mittigreen, (Verblocker), McCorring (Editoringham), Mattyree planchesser (Mac), Crisyle (St. Johnstone), Collins (Mest Stormets), Adebote (Circlingham), NATIONWICE Editoringham). Rugby Union hon (St Johnstone), Adebote (Birmingham). NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Re-erranged date: Wed 1 Apr. Queen's Park Rangers v Wolvos (Born 4 Apr.).

Golf

Hockey

**Paralympics** 

HEMARIT AUSTRIAN OPEN CHAMPRONSON
(Luco) First round: P Neol Scool to 6 Rud
(Caru) (Classifier) 5-6 5-6 5-5; A Gough W
IC Wallshrauser (Aud S-8 5-5; A 5-7; B
7, P Johnson (Engl) (C) by S Paries (Engl 8
5-2 5-2 5-5 5-5); D Jenson (Aus) by
Cratorus (Engl) S-6 5-5 5-5; S-2; S-4; A Gough W
or (Engl by C) First (Engl 5-6 5-5 5-5; A-4; A Gough W
or (Engl by C) First (Engl 5-6 5-5 5-5; A-4; A Gough W
or (Engl by C) First (Engl 5-6 5-5 5-5; A-4; A Gough W
or (Engl by C) First (Aug) 5-6 5-6 5-7; A Gough W
or (Aus) by S Castellayn (Sol) (C) 3-5 5-6 5-7;
6 5-72.

Sailing Britain's Ben Ainsile, with a first and a t6th place finish yesterday, led the men's singlehended leaer class final on the penultimate day of the ISAF World Championships in Dubal, UAE

Snooker AULT AUSTRIAN OPEN CHAMP

STRING GRAND TOURNAMENT (Oselog) Fifth day (of 15): Akindahu (enn à lors 2) bt Nerdaum (-2,3): Coloro (3-2) bt Nerdaum (-3-3): As-amoustu (3-2) bt Nerdaum (-3-1): Reporturer (3-2) bt Nordambanu (-3-1): Reporturer (3-3) bt Nordambanu (-3-3): Reporturer (3-3): Reporturer (3-3): Report

ground (2-2); Nychashuzan (2-3) et 'O safar (2-3); Kataryu (2-3) et Walengolo (1 zhonada (2-3)) et Genyu (1-4); Masoyarin et Effathires (1-4); Bistorite (4-1) et Na sara (2-3); Kulo (2-3) et Musathirenu (3 farchirena (3-4) et Chystaliai (3-2); Kolono (2-3) et Bistorinanu (2-3); Kolono-Tennis

K MEN'S CHAMPIONS CUP find

Today's fixtures

Football RYMAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Ox-ford City v Chesham (748). DR MARTERIS LEAGUE Southern Division:

Cricket

FIFTH TEST MATCH (Second day, include Rugby Union AIB LEAGUE Second Dh v Old Wesley (70). Basketbali

Other sports BADAINTON: All England Championships (Birminghern), SWIMMING: World Cup Mealing (Sheffiold). glos, quarter-floris; L Deverport (US) bt 8 Cec (US) 6-1 7-6; M Hingle (Swit) bt C Nortinez (Sp. 6-1 7-5; V Williams (US) bt J Kruger (SA) 6-6-3

TODAY'S NUMBER

cluding World Cup champion Michele Bartoli, who were aiminated from the Tirreno-Adriatico race yesterday after staging a go-slow and finishing more than 27 minutes behind stage winner Erik Zabel. Rain had caused crashes, and when riders asked officials for help and were refused, the protest went ahead.

The number of cyclists, in-



Henry Blofeld's West Indies Update

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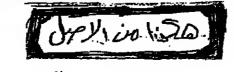
CRICKETLINE WEST INDIES V ENGLAND **VERY LATEST** NEWS & SCORES

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM. Draw date: 11/3/98. The winning numbers: 16, 22, 23, 28, 33, 37. Bonua number: 17.

Match 6 (Jackpot) £1,400,773 £4,202,319 Metch 5 plus bonus bal £117,547 Match 5 £1,712 £803.064 £1,777.300 25,390 Match TOTAL6 555.076 £13,372,700

it could be you: 🐞 the national lottery

fany discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Campilot control computer system shall provait



By Guy Hodgson and Andrew Yates

feeling cramped in their Highbury home, a new stadium on the of the national stadium, £120m M25 or at King's Cross was envisaged. Instead they have infurialed the Football Association and even upset the Government by bidding for Wembley.

Yesterday Arsenal made an official offer to buy the ageing stadium which only the day be- an ageing ground. As a private

football's world governing body, as the centrepiece of England's attempt to stage the World Cup of 2006. At a stroke a spanner WHEN Arsenal complained of was thrown in the works of that bid and in in the £240m funding of which was being provided by

the National Lottery. Arsenal are understood to may be prepared to go higher, but they would also have spend many millions more to update

fore had been described by Fifa. company there is no possibility of them receiving lottery cash.

Prime Minister gave goverment backing to the World Cup bid by meeting Fifa's president, João Havelange, the timing is an embarrassment to say the least. "I have spoken to various people at Arsenal and Wembley," Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, said have nffered around £100m and yesterday, "and now we need to get this sorted by the end of the month. All I can add is that the matter needs to be clarified very

The FA also called for a swift resolution. "We have to assume Coming just 24 hours after the they believe they are acting in the interests of their club and its supporters," its statement read. "However the Government and the rest of football have made it clear what we believe is in the nation's interests. We have their 38,000 capacity. Ideally

worked immensely hard with the English National Stadium Trust Highbury but to do that they on the proposal to buy Wembley Stadium with Lottery money. So it is now up to the Wembley board to make up its However a move to Wembley mind between the two bids.

been set by the English Sports strong roots in Highbury and Is- credibility as an alternative - but for the leisure group said: "We Council. That must be met to en- lington. All the same it will not the club statement could not have able the scheduled rebuilding of have escaped the attention of the the new national stadium to begin next year. Negotiations continue." Arsenal's move stems from

their desperation to increase they would prefer to expand and they have been thwarted by objections from local residents. would not necessarily be backed

"A deadline of 31 March has by many fans of a club which has site which had been gaining stage were up 22. A spokesman club's vice-chairman, David Dem, that Arsenal's inclusion in any future European Super League could depend on the bums they can put on seats. In that light. Wembley's tradition as well as its 75,000 capacity be-

come very attractive. Yesterday's move might be seen as a move to put pressure on local councillors - or to lower the price of the King's Cross

been less expansive: "The board of Arsenal Football Club has conposal to Wembley pic to acquire the stadium."

Whatever the motives, the immediate winners were Wembley ple, which now has two bidders for its principal asset instead of the expected one. Sources suggest it is willing to sell to Arsenal at the right price. Its shares rose 140 to 364.5 yesterday and at one

refinain committed to the national stadium project but we are in the curious position where we are a firmed that it has made a pro- commercial organisation and have to bear in mind the interests of our shareholders. If people come to us with a proposal, we have to listen to it. We don's know what the figures are at the moment and it's not like a normal proposition where money is the bottom line. There are lots of elements to consider."

Highbury hubris, page 30

# Ramprakash stands firm amid failure

Cricket

By Derek Pringle in Bridgetown, Barbados

England 163-5 v West Indies

ENGLAND'S cricketers, despite their fine showing here four years ago, bave never taken to Barbados as happily as holidaymakers, who find their one lot are used to being cooked by the sun before dindanger of being roasted by and hostile fast bowling. lunch, as the West Indies fast bowlers once more demon-

from Jack Russell, prevented a some much needed resistance.

ENGLANO - First Inning

BRIDGETOWN SCOREBOARD

first-day rout after Micbael Atherton had tost the toss.

the coin is legendary, Atherton's Ambrose are not two of the failure with the bat is a recent phenomenon, and another low score again meant his side were exposed without a steady plat-

form to build upon, As both captains had sug- probing with thunderbolts. gested long before the match hegan, the new ball was to Stewart. Tucking into a rare bad way here from Blighty. But if prove crucial, the extra bounce ball from Ambrose, Stewart, undoing both openers, as the home side resorted to their fa- pitch, was looking in fine fettle ner, the others were more in miliar strengths of accurate

It is not clear what Atherton would have done had he won the strated their superiority on toss, but there was little wrong home soil and a pitch made for with the pitch after he and Alec Test cricket rather than a lottery. Stewart, greeted by a tu-This was back to the multuous roar, walked out to Caribbean cricket of recent his- open the innings. In fact, there Four overs later, Atherton, toptory; hrutal, fast and unstinting was little wrong with it two fast bowling by men seemingly hours later, when England taller than giants. The average lunched on 55 for 4, n situation age of the home side may have made even less promising by risen to over 30, but they smell Graham Thorpe's retirement an opening just as a child can from a back spasm. He apparsmell sweets, and only another ently suffered it as he ducked un-Ramprakash, his second in suc- heing directed England's way. cessiuve Tests, and a spirited 32 Thorpe later returned to offer

The omens had looked good for England as they got off to Although his failure with a cracking start, but Walsh and leading wicket takers in history for nothing. On even paced pitches like this one, they feel their way into a situation, not tentatively, but like Greek Gods

> For once the pressure got to clearly at home on this Oval-like until Walsh, getting one to bounce from short of a length, had him caught hehind by David Williams. By the Surrey man's impeccable standards it was a soft dismissal.

Predictably, the wicket sent the fast men into overdrive. edging Walsh to Ambrose at long leg, followed his opening partner back to the pavilion, his run of low scores clearly forcing him into the ambitious hook shot that brought his downfall.

It is never easy captaining a plucky half-century by Mark der one of the many bouncers side when you are barely contributing yourself and Atherton, averaging 13 from his eight Test innings so far, will have had his normally lucid thoughts scramhled by searching for cures to his batting malaise.

The same can probably be applied to his vice-captain, Nasser Hussain, who, since his hrilliant 61 in the first of the Trinidad matches, has not made a significant score. Bedevilled by some poor decisions, as well as some poor shots, Hussain has clearly misplaced some of his inside a fast bouncer from Nixon McLean, his second in as many hatts, Hussain's only crime was to leave his gloves too high, the ensuing ricochet neat-

E O E E CLOSEUP O L K U RHAPSODI



Michael Atherton's hook is his last shot in the first innings as the England captain was caught by Curtly Ambrose for II runs in Bridgetown yesterday Photograph: David Ashdown

By now the potency of the new ball had begun to wane: But if it became less easy to dismiss batsmen, England suffered almost as badly when Thorpe ricked his back. Twice treated on the field by the England physio Wayne Morton, Thorpe soldiered on until lunch, by which time England, reeling at 53 for 4, had also lost Mark Butcher.

Thoroe was clearly in agony and with the Surrey left-hander temporarily retiring hurt, it was sell to partner the in-form Mark ing the scoreboard ticking over.

haps fortunate to be selected, Russell came out of the pavilion like a gunfighter emerging from the "Last Chance Saloon." He started batting like one too. hlazing away with a series of pulls and cuts.

The momentum was just what England needed. Apart from causing the West Indies to pause for thought, it allowed Ramprakash, missed by Amhrose off his own bowling when on two, to play himself in withleft to the out of form Jack Rus- out feeling pressured into keep-

Once he was in, the roles began to be reversed as Ramprakash, at last finding the gaps as well as his timing, began to outscore Russell, who had re-

#### Contenders to stage the World Cup? Tomorrow it could be Malta

ON Wednesday he met Tony Blair and said his "personal wish" was that England should be given it. Three months ago he told South Africa they had only to ask for it, while the Germans say they were promised it five years ago.

The right to stage the 2006 World Cup is not quite within the personal gift of João Havelange, but countries usually expect the president of Fifa, football's governing body, to give a fair indication of which way the wind is blowing. Yesterday, however, the cynics. were pouring scorn on the 81-year-old Brazilian.

"You cannot take him seriously any longer." Wolfgang Niershach, a spokesman for the German football federation, said, "I don't know where he's going next, but if it's Malta then he'll say Malta should stage the World Cup."

Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, the European game's ruling body, called Havelange "a dictator" and said he was "endangering his life's work".

Johansson said he had been present in 1993 when 2006 competition to Germany. He also said that other European nations including England - had agreed to support the German hid. "If the English suddenly cannot remember their word of honour, then as Uefa president I am powerless," he said.

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Umpires: C J-Mitchlev and E Nicholis

To bat: A R Caddick, O W Heedley, A R C Frasor, P C R Tufnel. Bowling (to data): Watah 12-4-35-2 (9-3-24-2, 3-1-71-0): Ambrose 12-4-20-1 (rib w1) (4-3-5-0, 8-1-15-1): McLean 9-1-32-1 (6-1-15-1, 3-0-13-0); Hooper 15-5-24-1 (3-2-1-0, 12-3-23-1); Bishop 9-0-31-0 (rib w1): (ribs seef).

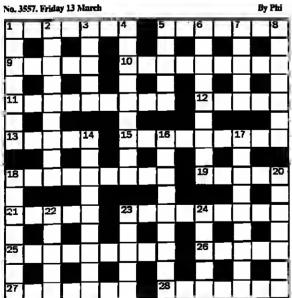
Progress: First day: 50: 94 min, 20 overs. Lunch: 55-4 (Thorpe 5, Ram-prakash 2) 26 overs. Thorpe retired hurt

at kinch with back spasms and returned

at the fall of the fifth wicket. 100: 187

ar the fall of the fillin wicker, 1900; 187
min, 41,3 overs.
WEST INDIES: C B Lambert, P A Wallace, "B C Lara, S Chanderpaul, C L
Hooper, R I C Holder, †D Williams, I R
Bishop, C E L Ambrose, N A M McLean,
C A Walsh.

0-31-0 (nb5) (one spell).



Produced drop in final instalment of ground rent 23 Cast includes one British

relative (7) Scots river still associated 26 with Loch (5) 10 Match is abandoned after City's netted - some ques- 27

tions asked (9) A friend given in black porcelain (4.5)
12 Attendant has right com-

munications device (5) What water-sportsman may use following boat (5) 2 15 All the runners stumble? Some investigation needed 3

18 Car that's crashed in the 4 clover (9)
Drinks last of ale in error 5

21 In due course one gets out

of marketing in recession 6 British want to hit judo ex- 7

Most broil when this vol-

cano erupts! (9) Girl's revolutionary in footballing organisation

Demand and take beart from lady - but nicely (7) DOWN Composer of French stories about Baron (7)

cause alarm (5) Deft clue I concocted is misleading (9) Religious text confused more than half of Australia (5)

Show signs of withdrawing support for the feet? (4-5) Covering for one Conservative in Government (5) Doctor amning sick group is a sweetie (7)

How to describe non-computer-based societies? Not at all (3,4,2) Trees rellecting silent chill 16 More to play when minor actor appears? (5,4) Theatre company be-

grudge display (9) Puts on screen: "Everyone's entering the competition" (5,2) Ingenious and fashionable 20 Try opening in Ural Sea, feature of jacket I have (9) Criticise one beginning to 22 Attempt to go round one

Italian city (5) 23 One sweeping up runs in a successful period (5)
24 Some weak fakery showed up an author (5)

#### hravado with the bat. Swaying ly taken by a leaping Brian Lara Ramprakash. A fighter who no doubt realises that he was per-

#### treated into his shell. The change was to prove ominous for England, and when the pair had added 76 runs, Russell, pushing forward to Hooper, squirted one off bat and pad to Clayton Lambert at short-leg. It was the moment Thorpe, his back spasm having been eased or dulled by painkillers, chose to return to the fray. Tony Cozier and

Henry Blofeld, page 31

#### McLaren ponder Coulthard and Hakkinen's handshake

race organisers and punters.

on 29 March, but the team will

"When we get out to Brazil

Objective for the team must he

to come away with as many.

The sport's ruling Lody, the

points as possible," she said.

decide if it should continue,

#### Motor racing

McLAREN will discuss whether to continue the controversial agreement between the Formula One team's drivers, Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard, before the Brazilian Grand Prix.

A McLaren spokeswoman said Hakkinen and Coulthard's first and second place at the Australian Grand Prix, after Coulthard had waved his teammate through, was a "freak occurrence and is unlikely to happen again".

"We will try to avoid a similar situation and hopefully [the agreement] will not be necessary," she added.

FIA. announced on Monday the The two drivers, on the front team would not be punished for row of the grid, had agreed be- the agreement. The McLaren that's not my problem," Dennis fore the race that whoever led team principal, Ron Dennis, insisted.

challenged by the other driver. rassed that they had not fol-Hakkinen reached the cor- lowed McLaren's lead in ner first hut made an unnecesdeveloping their brake system. sary pit stop, leaving Coulthard

Six teams made an official in the lead. However, the Scot complaint on the eve of the Australian Grand Prix, asking the decided to let his team-mate through in light of their agree-FIA to look into the system ment, a decision which angered which they claimed gave the McLaren cars illegal traction The agreement was due to control and power steering. cover the Brazilian Grand Prix

McLaren said the system had already been used in a race car at the end of last season and the team had kept the FIA informed we will have to discuss it. The throughout its development to ensure it was "perfectly legal".

"Some teams complain, they do not have the money to develop something like this but it's more accurate for them to sav: 'We do not have the brains'. And

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